

# DUN & BRADSTREET MONTHLY REVIEW

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JUNE, 1935

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Graphic Reviews of Major Trends

Special Trade Surveys:

Farm Equipment

Electrical Supplies

Men's Clothing

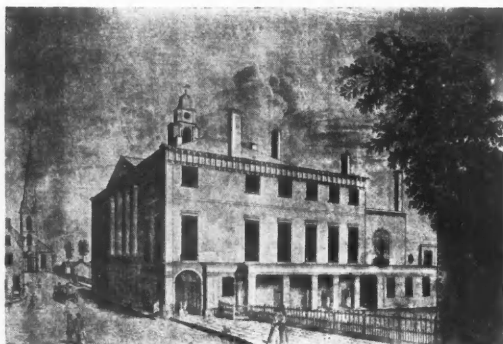
Jewelry

Complete Records of May Insolvencies



*Published by*  
**DUN & BRADSTREET, INC.**  
NEW YORK CITY

*Fifty cents a Copy*



*City Hall at Wall and Nassau Streets, 1769*

New York's second City Hall, built in 1700, stood at the corner of Wall and Nassau Streets facing Broad, on the present site of the Sub-Treasury.

It was here, in the open gallery in front of the Senate Chamber, on April 30, 1789, that George Washington was inaugurated the first President of the United States. Beyond the City Hall may be seen Trinity Church, erected in 1697, almost one hun-

dred years before Washington took the oath of office.

Early New York is rich in historical lore as are many of the concerns founded during this early period and functioning today with ever increasing service and breadth of scope. Such a concern is DUN & BRADSTREET, Inc. Founded in 1841, 94 years later finds it still occupying an important position in the business community of leading cities throughout the world.



## DUN & BRADSTREET, Inc.

### THE MERCANTILE AGENCY

*The Oldest and Largest Mercantile Agency in the World*

290 Broadway

New York City

ESTABLISHED 1841



# CONTENTS

JUNE, 1935



SPECIAL TRADE SURVEYS (Farm Equipment, Men's Clothing, Jewelry,  
Electrical Supplies) - - - - 2-4, 5-7, 14-16, 17-19  
*Raymond Brennan*

BUSINESS REPORTED BY FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICTS - - - 8-9

GRAPHIC REVIEWS OF MAJOR TRENDS (Cotton Consumption, Coal,  
Foreign Trade, Carloadings, Building, Crude Oil, Rubber, Elec-  
tricity Production) - - - - 10-13  
*J. A. D'Andrea*

DOWNTREND OF FAILURES RESUMED DURING MAY - - - 20-25

BANK CLEARINGS CONTINUED AT HIGHER LEVEL IN MAY - - - 26

THE TREND OF PRICES - - - - 27

STATISTICAL RECORD OF COMMERCE AND FINANCE - - - 28-29

MAY BUILDING PERMIT VALUES - - - - 30

IMPROVEMENT IN STOCK MARKET CONTINUED - - - 31  
*George Rambles*

INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKETS - - - - 32-33

MODERATE GAINS IN TEXTILE BUYING - - - - 34-35  
*C. S. Woolsley*

BUSINESS CONDITIONS BY DISTRICT OFFICES OF DUN & BRAD-  
STREET, INC. - - - - 36-40



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## THE ACTIVITY BAROMETER



JUNE 5, 1935  
69.3

MAY 1, 1935  
70.1

For the past three months the DUN & BRADSTREET Business Activity Barometer has declined slowly from the peak of 74.3 registered in the week of February 13. At 69.3 for the week ended June 5, it was 1.1 per cent below the level of the month previous, and 1.6 per cent under the figure for the corresponding week of last year, when the activity index stood at 70.4.

### BAROMETER AND ITS COMPONENTS (Estimated normal = 100)

	Activity Barometer	Steel Production	Car Loadings	Electric Power	Bank Clearings	Food Price Index
June 5, '35	69.3	46.6	60.2	85.6	51.2	85.3
May 29, '35	69.4	50.1	59.2	84.9	51.0	84.1
May 22, '35	68.6	49.1	58.3	85.2	51.0	84.0
May 15, '35	68.3	49.0	57.5	85.3	50.5	83.3
May 8, '35	67.8	47.2	57.1	85.9	50.5	83.6
May 1, '35	70.1	57.7	63.7	83.8	50.5	83.3
June 5, '34	70.4	67.8	62.7	82.9	44.1	70.2

## THIS ISSUE

While primary textile markets during May were more active than in April, trading was brought almost to a standstill toward the close of the month, following the ruling of the Supreme Court on the N.R.A. Just what effect this decision will have on production, prices, and wage and hour regulations in the textile industry is pointed out by Mr. C. S. Woolsley in his article on market developments during the past month.

The shifting trade balance of the United States, which is charted in the article on imports and exports in the "Graphic Reviews of Major Trends," is of particular significance just now. For, the April trade balance of the United States showed a surplus of imports over exports of \$6,217,000, thus reducing the American export surplus for the first four months of 1935 to \$21,247,000, the smallest reported since 1926.

After rising to 1,115 in April, which was the largest number recorded since January, the downtrend of commercial failures was resumed in May, the total falling to 1,027. This represented a decline of 7.9 per cent from the April total. The geographical and trade divisions contributing to the decline are listed in the May insolvency records.

# STRONG EXPANDING TREND IN FARM EQUIPMENT SALES

**S**ATISFACTORY reports are coming from all branches of the farm equipment trade, with both unit and dollar sales running from 40 to 50 per cent larger to double those of a year ago, despite the broad expansion in distribution during the first quarter of 1934. Increased purchasing power prevails in nearly all farm districts, as the result of the Government control program and the fact that obligations have been well reduced or liquidated entirely.

Because of the many years of distressed agricultural conditions, climaxed by a series of abnormally dry seasons, farmers have been unable for a long time to replace worn-out units. The various types of Government aid, however, including the refinancing of farm mortgages, seed loans, and the advanced prices for farm produce now are making such replacements possible.

While potential demand is considered to be the largest in the history of this trade, as practically all farmers are in need of some kind of new equipment, the continuation of this rising trend of sales will be dependent almost entirely on improved weather conditions. Dust-storms over wide areas have had a disquieting effect, producing a noticeable slackening of demand since the early part of April.

Based on the current rate of gain, total sales for 1935 should rise by an encouraging percentage above the 1934 domestic sales, which trade estimates place conservatively at \$200,000,000. As that figure, however, was less than 50 per cent of the three-year average of 1928-1930, inclusive, the trade still has much distance to

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*Extending the rising trend which started in the Summer of 1933, the increased sales of 1934 enabled some of the large concerns to close the year with a profit; others more than halved previous losses. Demand thus far in 1935 widest in last five years, with tractors and power-drawn implements leading.*

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cover before reaching what may be considered a normal business level.

## Production Near Capacity

Production of farm equipment has been stepped up steadily since the beginning of the current year, the total of employed has been lifted, and most of the manufacturers report improved earnings. Although operating near capacity, factories producing plows, tractors, incubators, pump systems, and small agricultural implements have been unable to meet their shipping dates.

Due to the restricted manufacture of heavy equipment since 1930, and the lack of inventories, orders to many centers are running widely ahead of production. Some of the manufacturers of small items, such as tools, which are widely distributed, are exceeding last year's output by nearly 100 per cent. Aside from the automobile industry, farm equipment manufacturers were the largest users of steel during the first quarter.

In the Northwest, manufacturers report unit volume 115 per cent above that for the first quarter of 1934, and 415 per cent in excess of the output for the first ninety days of 1933. Capacity factory operations have permitted the handling of only a small amount of the business volume offered in this section, as warehouse stocks were

sold out completely early in the year, and many orders still remain unfilled. In the light tractor division, many factories are fully three months behind in their shipments, with order files continuing to expand at a good rate, due to the market improvement in crop outlook, particularly in those districts most seriously devastated by the drought last Summer. In order to avoid pronounced fluctuation in employment at various seasons of the year, there is a growing tendency on the part of large manufacturers toward diversification of lines.

## Sales Broadening Rapidly

The rising trend of sales, which started in the Summer of 1933, was extended sufficiently during 1934 to enable some of the large concerns to close the year with a profit, while others more than halved their previous losses, even after substantial charge-offs. While demand thus far in 1935 has been wider in its inclusiveness than at any time in the last five years, tractors, trucks, and pumping units are strongly in the lead. Other principal items in demand are rotary harrows, disc harrows, manure spreaders, plows, corn planters, potato planters, cultivators, and farm wagons.

In the Middle West, sales in some sections are the largest since 1929, running 100 per cent in excess of the volume of a year ago, with tractors and truck-driven equipment in the greatest demand. In Missouri and Kansas, sales are exceeding the 1934 total by 35 to 50 per cent, with dealers selling an unusually large number of tractors. In the Northwest, sales have been about double those of a year

ago, with wholesalers having difficulty in avoiding depletion of their inventories. While volume is above the 1934 figures in the Southwest, due to the insistent demand for tractors, with these eliminated, sales in most sections of this district are under last year's.

In the five States which comprise the Richmond trade area, unit sales for the first quarter of the year were about 60 per cent larger than in the same period of 1934, with an increase of 30 per cent recorded for March alone. Excessive rain throughout Virginia and North Carolina stimulated the sale of equipment needed for cultivating heavy soils. Tractors, threshers, plows, and harrows sold unusually well in South Carolina, where the season was about twenty days earlier than normal.

#### Tractors Leading Demand

Tractors and tractor-drawn implements have been the most active thus far this year, sales averaging 50 to 75 per cent larger than in 1934, as there is a decided trend away from horse-drawn machinery. This definite trend from the use of horses and mules on the farm is an aftermath of the severe drought of last year, which not only reduced the number of animals, but also brought about such a rise in the price of feed that the power equipment is more economical to use.

During the Winter period, collections were inclined to lag somewhat, but were maintained at a level 10 to 15 per cent above that of the year preceding. Currently, collections are satisfactory, as more buyers are keeping closer to a cash basis than at any time in the past decade. Collections on new sales are holding up remarkably well, and in most parts of the country old obligations are being reduced at the most rapid rate in six years. As most tractors are being sold on the time-payment plan, collections in this division are somewhat under the general average.

#### Atlanta

A generally improved condition in the farm equipment field prevails. Due to past restricted manufacture of heavy equipment, orders are at this time somewhat in advance of production. A slight advance in price has been made in some farm machines but, as a whole, general implement prices continue on the same level prevailing in 1934.

Distribution is general, with no particular implement being favored. Sales are averaging 20 to 25 per cent in advance of the same period for 1934, with optimism being freely expressed for continued business throughout the current season.

#### Birmingham

Manufacturers and distributors of farming equipment report an increase of close to 10 per cent in sales during the first three months of 1935, as compared with a similar period of one year ago. This is ascribed to improved financial conditions in the agricultural sections, and more optimism among the farmers, as a whole.

#### Cleveland

Demand for farm equipment has shown further increase, and reports indicate that Spring shipments have been in advance of a year ago. Manufacturers of plows, tractors, incubators, pump systems, and agricultural implements have all experienced better volume and improved earnings. Farm purchasing power has increased through higher prices and Govern-

ment aid, making possible the replacement of outworn and obsolete equipment.

#### Dallas

Reports from local distributors of farm equipment are both encouraging and discouraging. Due to the unusually active sale of tractors, the total volume of business for the first quarter of 1935 compared favorably with that for the corresponding period of 1934.

Eliminating tractors, however, the sale of other equipment dropped in some cases 30 per cent. Most of the tractors are being sold on terms, and collections are not so good as they should be.

#### Indianapolis

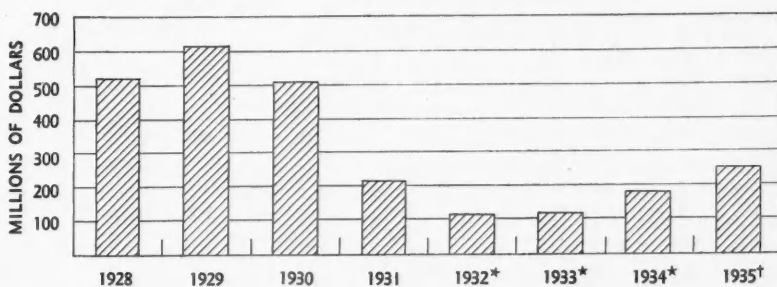
Farm implements and equipment sales are showing the largest volume since 1929. Sales for the first quarter of 1935 made a 100 per cent increase over the similar period of 1934, and cash collections show approximately the same gain.

Tractors and truck-driven equipment are in the greatest demand, especially tractors, for which there has been an extraordinary sale and the factories are unable to fill the orders. Prices remain stable.

#### Kansas City

The leading implement dealers in this territory report that sales at this time are approximately 33⅓ to 50 per cent greater than they were a year ago. Dealers report they are selling an unusually large number of tractors in both the Missouri and Kansas territories.

VALUE OF FARM EQUIPMENT PRODUCTION



(\*) Preliminary. (†) Estimated.

After declining to the all-time low in 1932 at less than \$120,000,000, output of farm equipment in 1934 rose to about \$180,000,000, or a gain of 50 per cent over the 1933 total. Conservative estimates place 1935 production at \$250,000,000, the largest since 1930, and nearly 40 per cent above the 1934 figures.

It is reported that dust-storms and light moisture have had some effect upon the crops in certain parts of western Kansas, but crops throughout the district are generally in good condition.

#### Memphis

Satisfactory reports are coming from the farm implement trade, with volume well ahead of a year ago. Buying has been chiefly for smaller and staple items, but the trend has been a little more toward power items, accentuated by the very high prices for mules and other livestock.

Tractors have been moving better and are regaining some of their popularity, because of shortage of mules and high feed costs. Dealers have no stock accumulation, and have found it difficult to make prompt deliveries of what they term quick-selling items.

#### Minneapolis

The improvement in the demand for farm implements, tools, and barn equipment has been and is continuing to be exceptional. Volume of sales is about double what it was a year ago.

Manufacturers, including one large local producer of numerous types of farm machinery, such as tractors and threshers, are behind in filling orders, though operating close to capacity. Wholesalers are having difficulty in avoiding depletion of inventories.

#### Omaha

Sales since the first of the year in farm implements have been on a very gratifying level. Unit and dollar sales are about 50 per cent greater than at this time last year, and it will be recalled that during the early months of 1934 sales were far ahead of the preceding year's.

Tractors and tractor-drawn implements are showing the greatest activity, with a very decided trend away from the horse-drawn machinery. Price trend is slightly upward, although current purchases are being made largely on the old price level.

#### Richmond

Business has been exceptionally good for several months throughout the five States comprising the Richmond trade area, unit sales being about 60 per cent larger than in the same period in 1934. March business was 30 per cent ahead in dollars of March, 1934, due largely to F.E.R.A.

Excessive rain throughout Virginia and North Carolina has stimulated the sale of equipment needed for cultivating heavy soil. Crop conditions are exceptionally good in South Carolina, where the season is about twenty days earlier than normal. Conditions also are promising in North Carolina.

#### St. Paul

Production of farm equipment in this district has been stepped up steadily since the beginning of the current year. Unit volume is now 115 per cent above the amount in the same period last year, and it is 415 per cent above the production for the first ninety days of the year 1933.

Capacity factory operations have permitted the handling of only a small amount of the business volume offered. Warehouse stocks were completely sold out early in the year, and, as a consequence, many orders received remain unfilled.

The demand for tractors has been so great that not more than 50 per cent of the orders can be filled until factories catch up on present back orders.

#### Seattle

There is little manufacturing of farm equipment in this section. However, jobbers and distributors of farm implements and machinery report sales for the first three months of 1935 about 30 per cent ahead of the same period in 1934. Prices have remained steady, but there are slight tendencies toward increases.

The future in this line depends largely upon a continuation of the present prices of butter-fat and eggs, which are the stabilizers in this section.

#### Abrupt Drop in Failures

As only 1 manufacturer of farm equipment was declared bankrupt in 1934, the smallest number since 1929, and only 10 distributors, which established a new all-time low, the reduction of failures in 1934 was the sharpest in the history of this trade, the total of 11 having dropped from 40 in 1933, which represented a decline of 72.5 per cent. The decrease in the defaulted indebtedness was even more accentuated, as the money loss for 1934 was cut to \$176,275 from \$798,231 in 1933, giving a difference of \$621,956, or 77.9 per cent.

Since 1931, when the peak for failures was reached at 51 for manufacturers and distributors, the downtrend has been uninterrupted, the number receding to 43 in 1932, to 40 in 1933, and to 11 in 1934. When compared with that of 1931, the total for 1934 was lower by 78.4 per cent.

The decline in the liabilities involved in these failures was even more precipitous, as from the record high of \$2,646,567 in 1931, the total fell to \$1,428,792 in 1932, to \$798,231 in 1933, with the sharpest curtailment of all occurring in 1934, when the defaulted indebtedness was only \$176,275. That amount, when put alongside the 1931 figures, reveals that in a period of three years the trade's loss through bankruptcies has been reduced 76.5 per cent.

The complete insolvency record of the farm equipment trade since 1927, including the first quarter of 1935, as compiled by Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., shows:

#### Manufacturers

Year	Number	Liabilities
1927.....	1	\$100,000
1928.....	2	204,500
1929.....	3	172,100
1930.....	4	2,026,979
1931.....	8	388,632
1932.....	6	144,697
1933.....	1	30,000
1935*.....	1	152,380

#### Distributors

Year	Number	Liabilities
1927.....	34	\$377,368
1928.....	11	350,616
1929.....	12	193,600
1930.....	24	561,200
1931.....	47	619,588
1932.....	35	1,040,160
1933.....	34	653,534
1934.....	10	146,275
1935*.....	6	110,966

(\*) January to March, inclusive.

# MEN'S CLOTHING TRADE NEARS BEST POSITION SINCE 1930

In spite of its late start, Fall trade in men's clothing gathered sufficient momentum to keep demand at a high level during the Winter months, and practically to clear retailers' stocks of both suits and overcoats. In many sections of the country sales were lost because of incomplete assortments, and manufacturers were prevented from showing larger gains in production because of the difficulty in securing piece goods from the mills.

During December two of the leading national clothing distributors did the largest business at retail in many years, and in one conspicuous instance the largest business in the concern's history. As a whole, volume of business in the men's clothing trade in 1934 was ahead of that of the year preceding by 20 to 25 per cent.

With substantial sums of ready cash available for investment in merchandise, retailers have bought freely since the first of the year, and manufacturers are expecting to close the Spring season with the largest amount of business transacted in five years. Based on label sales and trade reports, volume already is running 20 to 30 per cent above that of a year ago; and, as prices practically are unchanged, this percentage represents the gain in units.

The excellent first-quarter showing followed a year of general improvement in the trade, as sales and earnings of men's clothing manufacturers in 1934 were larger than in 1933. While some concerns still were in the red at the close of 1934, for the fourth consecutive year, the deficits were the smallest recorded during that period. The trade has achieved

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*Increase in production during first quarter larger than seasonal, with employment up 14 to 16 per cent from preceding year's total. Retail sales in some districts the heaviest in five years, with the gain averaging 15 to 25 per cent over the 1934 figures. Price level steady. Failures drop to fewest on record.*

the greatest degree of financial stability since 1932, and it is closer to a profit basis than at any time since 1930.

## Production Ahead of 1934

Due to the most active Fall spot market buying in several years, there was less than the usual decline in manufacturing operations during the final three months of 1934. During the first quarter of the current year the increase in production was larger than seasonal, and during March manufacturers obtained permission to operate forty hours a week, instead of thirty-six, as provided by the code.

In some districts employment in February rose 16 per cent from the preceding month's level, and was larger by 14 per cent than in the corresponding months of 1934. The five-year average increase in employment from January to February is only 5 per cent.

According to the statistics compiled by the Bureau of Census, in co-operation with the Men's Clothing Code Authority, the number of men's and boys' suits cut during the first two months of the current year exceeded the comparative 1934 figures. In February, the total of 1,895,947 exceeded that for any month in 1934. For the entire twelve months of 1934, the number of men's and boys' suits cut reached 17,461,954. As inventories of both manufacturers and re-

tailers are at the lowest level in nearly a decade, this larger production is passing almost immediately into consumer channels. Manufacturers are not of the opinion that rising food prices will curtail purchases of clothing, as production increased steadily during the first

quarter when the costs of many food items were at a four-year peak.

## Largest Sales in Years

Current retail sales generally are reported as the largest in several seasons, averaging 15 to 25 per cent above last year's, and the steady enlargement of consumer demand for men's clothing is expected to continue well into the Summer, as adverse weather conditions in most parts of the country prevented the peak from being reached during the early Spring months. Buying is not confined to the medium-priced and cheaper lines, as demand has spread to nearly all price ranges, with less resistance offered to the better qualities of merchandise than was the case last Spring.

The greater interest which men are taking in their appearance was proven during 1934, when sales of evening clothes averaged 15 per cent larger than in 1933, with both tuxedos and tail coats selling freely, although purchases of the latter predominated by the widest percentage in several years. The general dress-up movement also has benefited merchant tailors, who foresee a gain in their business ranging from 12 to 33 per cent over that of 1934, during the first six months of this year. Customers whose accounts have been inactive for as long as five years have ordered one or more suits for Spring, and with favorable general

conditions a more abrupt improvement is expected during the Fall months.

#### Price Level Steady

Current prices of clothing at retail practically are the same as at the opening of the Fall season, but are down 5 to 10 per cent from the level obtaining at the beginning of the Spring season in 1934. Considerable strength, however, is displayed by the price structure in all branches, due to the shortage of piece goods.

As it is the general opinion that prices are too low, in view of raw material and manufacturing costs, Fall lines are expected to show an advance of at least 10 per cent. There is almost no evidence of price resistance on the part of the public this year; on the contrary, there is a decidedly stronger leaning to the better grades of merchandise.

Wholesale collections show an improvement of more than 10 per cent over last year's, while with retailers the reduction of outstandings runs to a larger percentage. With manufacturers, collection experience approximately is the same as it was in 1934, returns averaging 45 per cent of outstandings, against 47 per cent last year. In contrast to the long credits extended during former years, retailers report the bulk of the business on a cash basis this season.

#### Atlanta

Retail sales of clothing are showing an increase of about 20 per cent, both in value and units, over the same period of last year. The best-selling items are suits in the price range of \$30 to \$35, with prices stabilized, but values are at least 10 per cent better.

Retail collections have improved and further indications of betterment are reflected in some increases in earnings and continued governmental activities.

#### Baltimore

Manufacturers of men's clothing are steadily increasing produc-

tion schedules in an endeavor to catch up with orders specifying prompt deliveries. Unit volume is now about 10 per cent larger than in 1934, while dollar volume is up 20 to 25 per cent.

The difficulty of securing piece goods from the mills has kept production from reaching higher levels. Some manufacturers are now buying to cover future requirements. Current retail sales are the largest in several seasons.

#### Boston

Values are about the same as a year ago, but production is ahead 25 to 33 per cent, and with some manufacturers even higher. The demand is for popular-priced merchandise ranging from \$12.50 to \$18.50 for men's suits. Manufacturers of suits selling for \$21.50 and up report an increase in demand of 5 per cent. Prices show little if any change and, although mills have been slow in deliveries, there were only a limited number of cancellations for Spring merchandise.

The outlook is very generally commented upon as good. Manufacturers and jobbers had a very good Fall season and were in satisfactory shape for the Spring business. Retailers experienced a shortage in clothing, especially overcoats and are in a mood to buy a little more freely. With a normal season's business this Summer the trade anticipates a decided improvement for the Fall. The cloth-

ing trade appears to be one of the very few bright spots in the picture around Boston at present.

#### Buffalo

In the Buffalo district, production in units is running about the same as a year ago at this time. Under the N.R.A. code, employees are now working thirty-six hours a week, as against a forty-four-hour week a year ago. In order to produce the same amount in units, plants have increased their help by at least 20 per cent, the employees' pay checks have increased nearly 50 per cent, boosting the labor costs over 50 per cent.

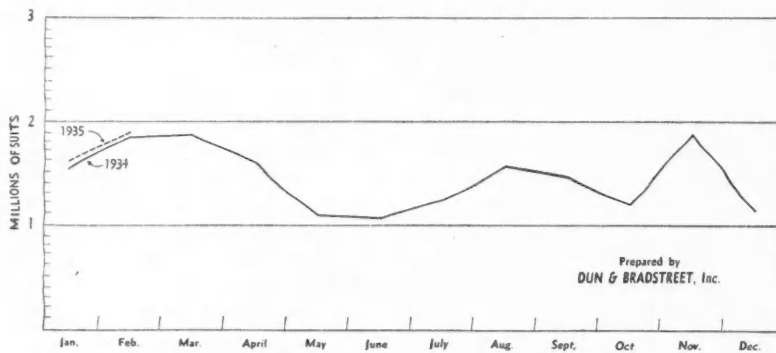
The dollar value of output has increased about 30 per cent, represented by an advanced price to retailers of that amount. The remaining 20 per cent of the advance in labor costs is being met by the manufacturers in reduced overhead, including a reduction in sales promotion and expense.

#### Cleveland

Manufacturers of men's clothing report the best Spring season in five years. There was a greater than seasonal increase in production in February and March, and during the latter month manufacturers obtained permission to operate forty hours a week instead of thirty-six, as provided by the code.

The excellent first-quarter showing followed a year of general improvement in the industry. Sales

MEN'S AND BOYS' SUITS CUT \*



(\*) Based on statistics compiled by Bureau of Census in co-operation with Men's Clothing Code Authority. The number of men's and boys' suits cut during the first two months of the current year exceeded the comparative 1934 figures. In February, the total of 1,895,947 exceeded the total for any month in 1934. For the entire twelve months of the latter year, the number of men's and boys' suits cut reached 17,461,954.

and earnings of men's clothing manufacturers in 1934 were substantially better than in 1933. In one instance, volume increased 58 per cent over the previous year.

Retail business also was better in 1934, with principal demand for medium and lower-priced merchandise. In February and March there was a falling-off in business, as a result of the State sales tax, and partly because of the late Easter.

#### Dallas

Dallas retailers of men's clothing experienced a much improved business during the first quarter of 1935. Sales averaged 15 per cent higher than for the corresponding period of 1934. This increase, moreover, was reflected in the number of units sold, since prices have advanced but little in more than a year.

#### Detroit

All but a negligible amount of the men's clothing sold in Detroit is manufactured elsewhere. Wholesaling and jobbing also are small in proportion to the retail sales in this area and are confined principally to the neighborhood clothier who is not sufficiently large to attract the salesmen of large out-of-town concerns. Wholesale distribution during the first quarter, because a majority of the sales were up-State, was only about 5 per cent ahead of last year's, a figure considerably lower than the general retail average.

Unit retail sales during the opening months of 1935 increased between 18 and 22 per cent over 1934, but March was about even with the preceding year. March sales were highly satisfactory, however, because Easter sales were included in March of last year.

#### Pittsburgh

The manufacture of men's clothing in this district is confined almost entirely to trousers, of which there are several manufacturers. Business with them is reported fairly active, and at approximately the same level as a year ago, al-

though orders on hand at the present time are more numerous than they were in 1934.

Wholesale clothing business has been rather quiet this year, with sales for the first quarter between 15 and 20 per cent lower than for the same period of last year, but more activity is in evidence at this time. Retail trade for the first quarter has averaged about 10 per cent lower than in 1934. Prices are reported averaging slightly lower than a year ago.

#### Rochester

For the current Spring season, production units showed an increase of 40 per cent, in dollars an increase of 8 per cent, as compared with the same season of a year ago. The best-selling items have been three-piece suits. With regard to the outlook, the upward trend appears to continue in prospect, although Spring retail trade was somewhat depressed.

No permanent improvement can be expected until there has manifested itself a much greater activity in the durable goods industries.

#### St. Louis

Reports in this area from men's apparel concerns indicate some unevenness. Some firms report increased activity as compared with the corresponding period last year; others indicate a recessionary trend. Some betterment, however, was stated to have been experienced during the first half of March, occasioned probably by Easter buying.

Generally speaking, the demand is reported to center largely on lower-quality clothing. Work garments are indicated to be less in demand than during the closing months of 1934; sport clothes, on the other hand, are stated to continue at a high level.

#### Failures Reduced to New Low

The better financial position of most concerns in the men's clothing trade is reflected not only in the earnings statements for 1934, but is revealed even more impressively in the record of insolven-

cies. The number of failures for the entire trade in 1934, including manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers of clothing and furnishings, not only was the smallest on record, but in the wholesale and retail group the total was less than half that set down for the year preceding.

In spite of the abrupt descent of the trend of bankruptcies during 1933, when the total was lowered to 1,990 from the all-time high of 4,520 in 1932, or a drop of 55.9 per cent, a further reduction was recorded for 1934. In the latter year, only 1,056 failures occurred, which was less by 934, or 46.9 per cent, than the 1,990 in 1933.

The cut in the money loss which the industry has been forced to suffer because of bankruptcies has run to an even larger percentage. From the peak record of \$80,487,079, which the defaulted indebtedness totalled in 1932, the figure for 1933 was more than halved, falling to \$29,194,922, or smaller by \$51,292,157, or 63.7 per cent. The continuance of this downtrend during 1934 carried the involved liabilities down to \$14,723,001, representing a difference from the preceding year's of \$14,471,921, or 49.6 per cent. Compared with the 1932 peak, the industry's loss through failures has been curtailed to the extent of \$65,764,078, or 81.7 per cent.

The complete insolvency record of the clothing trade, including both the men's and women's divisions, from 1928 to the end of March, 1935, as compiled by Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., shows:

#### Manufacturers of Clothing

Year	Number	Liabilities
1928.....	557	\$10,337,439
1929.....	500	7,987,527
1930.....	579	16,332,475
1931.....	707	14,624,813
1932.....	840	22,298,941
1933.....	298	7,100,951
1934.....	211	5,257,241
1935*.....	67	1,094,334

#### Wholesalers and Retailers of Clothing and Furnishings

Year	Number	Liabilities
1928.....	2,324	\$27,891,578
1929.....	1,983	25,955,443
1930.....	2,819	35,232,301
1931.....	3,055	47,164,815
1932.....	3,680	57,188,138
1933.....	1,692	22,093,971
1934.....	845	9,465,760
1935*.....	256	2,103,580

(\* ) January to March, inclusive.

# THE BUSINESS MONTH REPORTED

## 1st Federal Reserve District



POPULATION—7,834,000; PER CENT TOTAL U. S.—6.32

Business in the New England States since the first of the year has been declining gradually, and this trend continued during May. Retail sales for the first five months somewhat below comparative 1934 figures. Intense activity in wool market during most of month; prices advanced on nearly all grades. Manufacturers of woolen goods plan to maintain full schedules into August. Building and engineering contracts highest in two years. Lumber mills profited by West Coast strike.



## 2nd Federal Reserve District



POPULATION—16,343,000; PER CENT TOTAL U. S.—13.12

Cold, rainy weather during most of the month hampered consumer buying to such an extent that retail sales failed to equal the total of May, 1934. Wholesale volume recovered slightly toward close of month, due to fill-in orders and Fall commitments. Recession in manufacturing activity moderate; employment totals maintained. Commodity markets slumped on Supreme Court's decision. Activity on Stock Exchange at highest level since February, 1934; turnover 30,438,000 shares.



## 3rd Federal Reserve District



POPULATION—7,619,000; PER CENT TOTAL U. S.—6.14

Department store and women's specialty shop sales for May unsatisfactory, owing to continued unseasonable weather during nearly entire month. Wholesale orders for drugs deferred, because of price weakness; orders for paper declined. Shipments of electrical goods smaller than in April; total for first four months 60 per cent ahead of year ago. Wool markets active; slight gain in production of industrial oils and leather. Hosiery industry on reduced schedules; price trend down.



## 4th Federal Reserve District



POPULATION—11,407,000; PER CENT TOTAL U. S.—9.19

Special month-end sales failed to lift May retail volume above 1934 level. Outlook for June considered favorable. Supreme Court decision on N.R.A. had little effect on wholesale and retail trade, although there were a few instances of price-cutting. Industrial activity declined during month, due to tapering-off in demand from automobile makers. Manufacturers voluntarily maintaining hour and wage provisions of code. Most labor troubles settled. Applications for relief at year's low.



## 5th Federal Reserve District



POPULATION—11,073,000; PER CENT TOTAL U. S.—8.92

Retail sales during May compared favorably with those of a year ago. Department store sales in April averaged 20.8 per cent more than in 1934; cumulative sales for first four months up 7.9 per cent. Total of employed gained slightly during May. Textile mills operated on restricted basis, but tobacco plants were on full schedules. Continued cool weather lifted sale of coal and fuel oils above seasonal level. Agricultural conditions satisfactory. Most early farm produce bringing good prices.



## 6th Federal Reserve District



POPULATION—11,339,000; PER CENT TOTAL U. S.—9.14

Although sensitive to weather variations, retail sales reached a higher level than in May, 1934, helped by numerous special promotions. Housewares and furniture particularly active. Wholesale volume expanded toward close of month, following short lull, due to fill-in orders and Fall buying. Inventories generally below normal. Building trades more satisfactory; supplies, paints, hardware, and tools moved freely. Employment held up well, but manufacturers proceeded cautiously.

# BY FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICTS

POPULATION—18,606,000; PER CENT TOTAL U. S.—15.00

Despite substantial gain toward close of month, retail sales were under total for May, 1934, when abnormally warm weather released demand for Summer goods in advance of regular season. Wholesale volume also declined; in some instances as much as 10 per cent below year ago. Mail-order houses made best showing of any merchandising group. Industrial rate lowered by reduced output of automobiles and steel. Farm equipment plants fairly active. Building permits above May, 1934, total.

7th Federal Reserve District



POPULATION—9,676,000; PER CENT TOTAL U. S.—7.82

Long overdue arrival of favorable weather during final week of month unable to carry retail sales above May, 1934, total. Wholesale orders dropped below level of year ago, having been affected adversely by floods, which were general throughout territory. Retailers' stocks low. Manufacturers of shoes and wearing apparel increased schedules in anticipation of active Fall season. Industrial progress retarded by labor disputes. Some reduction in unemployment; skilled labor in demand.

8th Federal Reserve District



POPULATION—5,370,000; PER CENT TOTAL U. S.—4.35

Trend of retail sales upward during May, with gain ranging from 5 to 8 per cent over corresponding month of 1934. Staple merchandise of all classes moved better, with marked increase in demand for non-essentials. Wholesale orders for general merchandise, furnishings, dresses, hardware, and harness up 4 to 6 per cent from year ago. Industrial activity well maintained, especially in clothing, paper, agricultural implements, and special machinery. Crop prospects creating confidence.

9th Federal Reserve District



POPULATION—7,967,000; PER CENT TOTAL U. S.—6.42

Flood conditions in various sections of the trade territory interfered with wholesale distribution, but as inventories are low a sharp rebound is in prospect for June. Where weather permitted, more farm work improved trade among country merchants. Crops about three weeks late. Court's ruling on N.R.A. had no apparent effect, although some concern was expressed. Merchants generally busy preparing for enlarged late Spring volume, bolstered by improved crop prospects in district.

10th Federal Reserve District



POPULATION—7,078,000; PER CENT TOTAL U. S.—5.72

Retail sales in most lines ran ahead of April total, with noticeable improvement recorded during latter part of month, particularly in the textile trade. Total retail volume for month 1 to 3 per cent larger than that for May, 1934. Inventories depleted in many sections, but merchants continue to cover immediate requirements only; wholesale orders 3 to 8 per cent larger than a year ago; trend of prices slightly upward. Rains improved agricultural prospects throughout entire trade territory.

11th Federal Reserve District



POPULATION—9,758,000; PER CENT TOTAL U. S.—7.86

Both wholesale and retail sales reached a satisfactory volume during May, despite contraction in some sections, because of unsettled strike in the lumber industry. Some price-cutting followed N.R.A. decision; large stores announced intention of continuing code wage and personnel requirements. May building permits double those of a year ago. Automobile sales held at remarkably high level. Orders for mining machinery largest in years. Hop market active. Farm conditions good.

12th Federal Reserve District



# GRAPHIC REVIEWS

## COTTON CONSUMPTION OFF

**C**ONSUMPTION of cotton in American mills during April amounted to 462,844 bales, according to the monthly report of the Census Bureau. This compares with 481,135 bales consumed in March and 512,584 in April of last year. The decline from a year ago was 49,750 bales, or 9.7 per cent. Consumption for the nine months of the current season ended April 30 totalled 4,096,871 bales, against 4,457,741 for the corresponding period of last season, representing a decrease of 8.1 per cent.

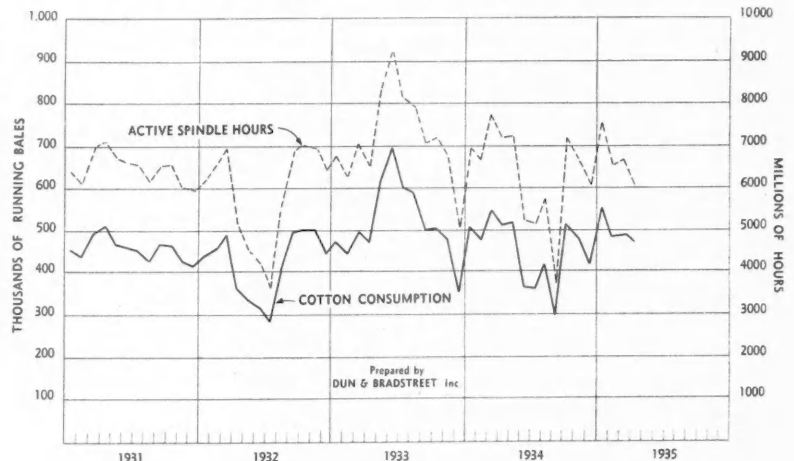
**Cotton Consumption \***  
(Thousands of Running Bales)

	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931
Jan. ....	547	508	470	435	450
Feb. ....	478	477	441	451	433
Mar. ....	481	545	495	489	491
Apr. ....	463	513	470	366	509
May ....	...	519	621	332	465
June ....	...	363	697	323	454
July ....	...	421	589	403	425
Aug. ....	...	296	499	492	464
Sept. ....	...	520	504	502	461
Oct. ....	...	477	475	504	425
Nov. ....	...	414	348	440	415
Dec. ....	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	5,413	6,210	5,016	5,443

\* Source: Bureau of the Census.

Active cotton spindles during April numbered 23,853,816, against 26,485,114 in April, 1934, while active spindle hours totalled 6,057,601,513, or an average of 197 hours per spindle in place, compared with 7,260,010,234 and 234

## COTTON CONSUMPTION AND SPINDLE ACTIVITY



Consumption of cotton during April was below the preceding month and also well under the corresponding month of last year. Active spindle hours likewise declined to the lowest level since last December.

for last year. The cotton spinning industry was reported by the Bureau to have operated at 85.3 per cent of capacity, on a single-shift basis, against 104.5 last year.

**Active Spindle Hours \***  
(Millions of Hours)

	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931
Jan. ....	7,510	6,970	6,788	6,214	6,305
Feb. ....	6,575	6,692	6,286	6,567	6,122
Mar. ....	6,663	7,720	7,048	6,955	7,000
Apr. ....	6,058	7,260	6,569	5,195	7,125
May ....	...	7,279	8,310	4,577	6,733
June ....	...	5,253	9,299	4,247	6,030
July ....	...	5,152	8,128	3,659	6,528
Aug. ....	...	5,753	7,942	5,539	6,193
Sept. ....	...	7,116	7,058	6,866	6,540
Oct. ....	...	7,185	7,261	7,046	6,595
Nov. ....	...	6,703	6,796	6,967	6,014
Dec. ....	...	6,027	5,095	6,386	5,951
Monthly av. ....	6,309	7,215	5,854	6,484	...

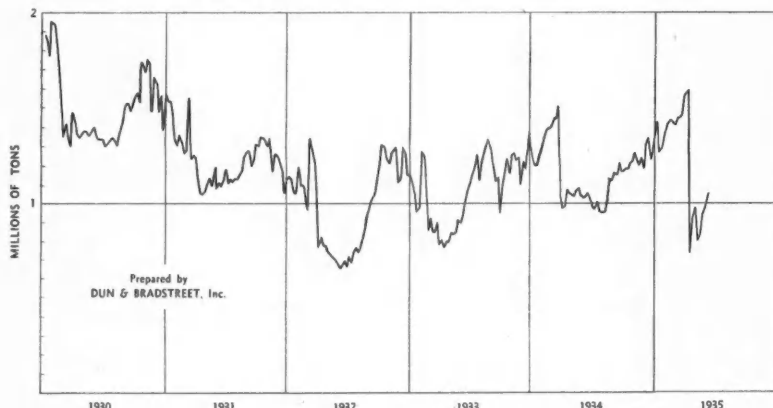
\* Source: Bureau of the Census.

## BITUMINOUS COAL PRODUCTION

**W**ITH the renewed threat of labor difficulties scheduled for the middle of June, production of bituminous coal during May jumped almost 5,000,000 tons above April, although still considerably below the aggregates of the first three months of the year.

Production for last month was placed at 26,790,000 tons, which compared with 21,920,000 in April, an increase of 22.2 per cent, and 27,385,000 tons in May of last year, a loss of 2.2 per cent.

## BITUMINOUS COAL PRODUCTION



The chart shows the weekly movement of daily average production. In May the daily average increased to 1,019,000 tons, compared with 866,000 tons in April, 1,487,000 in March and 1,064,000 in May, 1934.

## Monthly Bituminous Production \*

	1935	1934	1933
Jan. ...	36,393,000	33,371,000	27,868,000
Feb. ...	34,781,000	32,606,000	27,915,000
Mar. ...	38,655,000	38,470,000	24,413,000
Apr. ...	21,920,000	24,599,000	19,805,000
May ...	26,790,000	27,385,000	22,531,000
June ...	...	25,877,000	25,461,000
July ...	...	24,869,000	29,675,000
Aug. ...	...	27,452,000	34,421,000
Sept. ...	...	27,772,000	29,715,000
Oct. ...	...	32,807,000	30,294,000
Nov. ...	...	30,856,000	31,184,000
Dec. ...	...	32,331,000	30,349,000
Total. ....	358,395,000	333,631,000	...

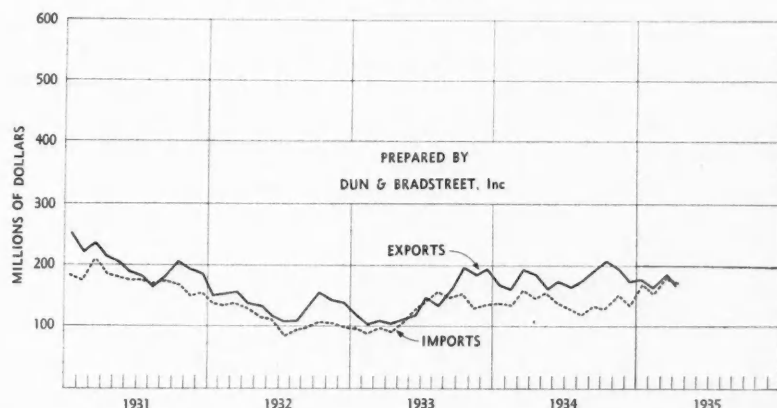
## Weekly Bituminous Production \*

	1935	1934	1933
May 25 ...	1,060,000	1,060,000	853,000
May 18 ...	979,000	1,038,000	842,000
May 11 ...	943,000	1,040,000	847,000
May 4 ...	832,000	1,052,000	802,000
Apr. 27 ...	805,000	1,037,000	804,000
Apr. 20 ...	981,000	981,000	772,000
Apr. 13 ...	920,000	980,000	811,000
Apr. 6 ...	741,000	1,044,000	793,000

\* Source: U. S. Bureau of Mines.

# OF MAJOR TRENDS

## UNITED STATES FOREIGN TRADE



The sharp recession in exports during April brought the total for that month below imports for the first time since August, 1933. The excess of merchandise imports over merchandise exports was \$6,217,000.

### FOREIGN TRADE LOWER

FOREIGN trade declined in April, especially in the export branch, according to the latest report of the Department of Commerce. Exports, which usually decline about 6 per cent from March, showed a drop of 11 per cent, while imports exceeded exports for the first time since August, 1933.

Exports, including re-exports, in April were the smallest, with the exception of February, since last July and were valued at \$164,350,000, compared with \$184,603,000 in March and \$179,427,000 in April, 1934. General imports totalled \$170,567,000 in April, compared with \$146,523,000 in April, 1934.

### Exports, Including Re-exports \*

	1935	1934	1933
Jan. . . . .	\$176,223,000	\$172,220,000	\$120,580,000
Feb. . . . .	162,990,000	162,752,000	101,515,000
Mar. . . . .	184,603,000	190,938,000	108,015,000
Apr. . . . .	164,350,000	179,427,000	105,217,000
May . . . . .	160,197,000	114,203,000	114,203,000
June . . . . .	159,519,000	119,790,000	144,109,000
July . . . . .	161,672,000	144,109,000	131,473,000
Aug. . . . .	171,984,000	160,119,000	193,069,000
Sept. . . . .	191,313,000	184,256,000	192,638,000
Oct. . . . .	206,413,000	170,654,000	
Nov. . . . .	194,712,000		
Dec. . . . .	170,654,000		
Total . . . . .	\$2,132,800,000	\$1,674,994,000	

\* Source: U. S. Department of Commerce.

Imports for consumption, which include goods entering consumption channels immediately upon arrival, plus withdrawals from bonded warehouses for consumption, were valued at \$166,152,000,

against \$141,247,000 in April, 1934.

For the first four months of 1935 exports of general merchandise amounted to \$688,166,000, against \$705,337,000 in the same period last year, or a loss of 2.4 per cent, but were 58.1 per cent higher than in 1933, when exports had shrunk to \$435,336,000.

### General Imports \*

	1935	1934	1933
Jan. . . . .	\$166,993,000	\$135,706,000	\$96,006,000
Feb. . . . .	152,478,000	132,753,000	83,748,000
Mar. . . . .	177,275,000	158,105,000	94,860,000
Apr. . . . .	170,567,000	146,523,000	88,412,000
May . . . . .	154,647,000	106,869,000	106,869,000
June . . . . .	136,109,000	122,197,000	142,980,000
July . . . . .	127,229,000	154,918,000	146,643,000
Aug. . . . .	119,513,000	150,867,000	150,867,000
Sept. . . . .	131,658,000	128,541,000	138,518,000
Oct. . . . .	129,635,000		
Nov. . . . .	150,919,000		
Dec. . . . .	132,258,000		
Total . . . . .	\$1,655,055,000	\$1,449,559,000	

\* Source: U. S. Department of Commerce.

## FREIGHT CARLOADINGS

THE small but steady gain in carloadings throughout the month of May lifted the Dun & Bradstreet adjusted index from 57.1 at the end of April to 60.2 for the last week of May. This was an increase of 5.4 per cent for the month but comparison with the 62.7 figure for the corresponding week of last year, showed a drop of 4 per cent.

Total freight loadings for the first 21 weeks of this year aggregated 12,140,904 cars, a decrease of 1.7 per cent from the same period of last year, but an increase of 16.5 per cent over 1933. Three of the commodity groups showed gains over a year ago, while five classifications declined.

Carloadings by commodities for the first 21 weeks of this year and last compare as follows:

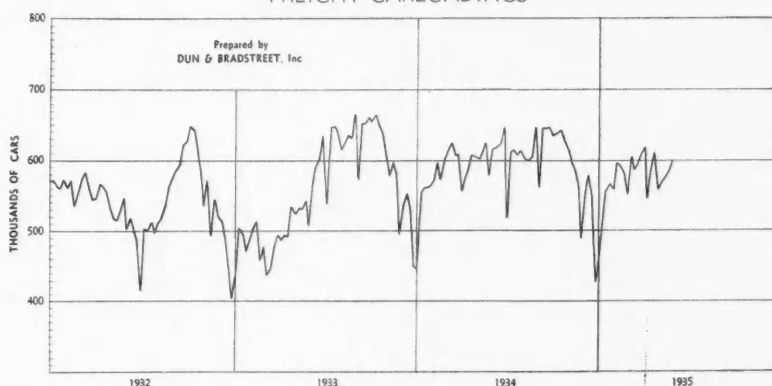
	1935	1934	Change P. C.
Miscellaneous freight . . . . .	4,648,644	4,548,984	+ 2.2
Merchandise (L. C. L.) . . . . .	3,272,500	3,394,940	- 3.6
Coal . . . . .	2,580,105	2,076,878	+ 3.6
Forest products . . . . .	503,016	477,153	+ 5.4
Ore . . . . .	179,675	155,064	+ 15.9
Coke . . . . .	145,003	166,692	- 13.0
Grain & grain products . . . . .	543,344	603,818	- 10.0
Livestock . . . . .	268,617	328,404	- 18.2

### Carloadings by Weeks \*

	1935	1934	1933
May 25 . . . . .	599,543	625,990	545,551
May 18 . . . . .	583,327	612,331	535,719
May 11 . . . . .	575,185	602,798	534,806
May 4 . . . . .	569,065	605,246	527,118
April 27 . . . . .	558,886	609,704	538,809
April 20 . . . . .	610,905	591,705	496,512
April 13 . . . . .	587,685	579,981	498,182

\* Source: Association of American Railroads.

## FREIGHT CARLOADINGS



Freight carloadings throughout May increased at a slow but steady pace, the total for the week ended May 25 being the highest since the week of April 20, although still below the same week of last year.

# GRAPHIC REVIEWS

## MAY BUILDING PERMIT VALUES

**B**UILDING operations in May were only slightly less active than April. In fact, the value of permits issued last month was the highest, with the exception of April, since November, 1931.

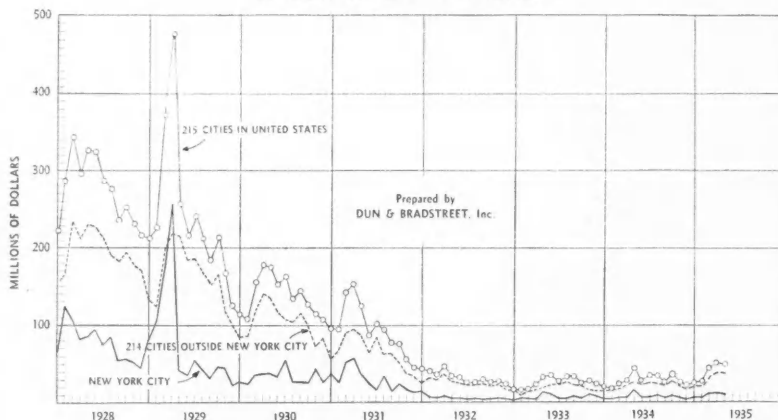
The estimated cost of permits taken out in May for 215 cities of the United States totalled \$49,322,110, compared with \$51,717,570 in April. This was a decrease of 4.6 per cent, whereas the usual change for the period is a decline of about 6.5 per cent. Comparison with May, 1934, however, when permits totalled \$43,825,268, shows a rise of 12.5 per cent. Although not as high as the gains reported in recently preceding months, this marks the fifth consecutive monthly increase over the corresponding period of last year.

The group totals of building permit values for 215 cities for May, 1935 and 1934, are shown in the following table:

Groups:	May, 1935	May, 1934	Change P. Ct.
New England...	\$3,409,874	\$3,642,035	- 6.4
Middle Atlantic...	15,511,312	21,128,854	- 26.6
South Atlantic...	6,882,479	3,491,150	+ 97.1
East Central...	7,667,385	5,184,108	+ 47.9
South Central...	3,856,017	2,063,715	+ 30.1
West Central...	3,525,159	3,028,544	+ 16.4
Mountain .....	1,200,789	484,792	+ 147.9
Pacific .....	7,269,095	3,902,070	+ 86.3
Total U. S. . . . .	\$49,322,110	\$43,825,268	+ 12.5
New York City...	\$11,366,418	\$16,270,839	- 30.1
Outside N. Y. C. . . .	\$37,955,692	\$27,554,429	+ 37.7

The continued improvement in building activity since January of

## BUILDING PERMIT VALUES



Although not as large as earlier months of this year, the increase of 12.5 per cent in May permit values over May, 1934, marked the fifth consecutive monthly increase over the same period of last year.

this year is reflected in an aggregate value of permits granted for five months of this year of \$200,566,167, against \$138,762,958 last year, and \$106,322,129 for the corresponding five months' period of 1933. The respective increases over the two years mentioned is 44.5 and 88.6 per cent.

### Building Permit Values (Monthly)

	1935	1934	1933
(215 Cities)			
Jan. ....	\$26,826,268	\$20,825,055	\$17,744,805
Feb. ....	27,636,367	19,326,964	17,161,943
Mar. ....	45,063,852	25,505,005	17,798,441
April ....	51,717,570	29,280,666	22,091,417
May ....	49,322,110	43,825,268	31,525,523
June ....	.....	28,621,565	34,098,384
July ....	.....	33,899,650	29,484,891
Aug. ....	.....	34,452,738	32,391,868
Sept. ....	.....	26,567,925	32,243,704
Oct. ....	.....	37,501,122	26,198,342
Nov. ....	.....	27,459,066	28,021,688
Dec. ....	.....	21,125,723	24,915,270
Total...	\$348,390,747	\$313,676,276	

## CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION

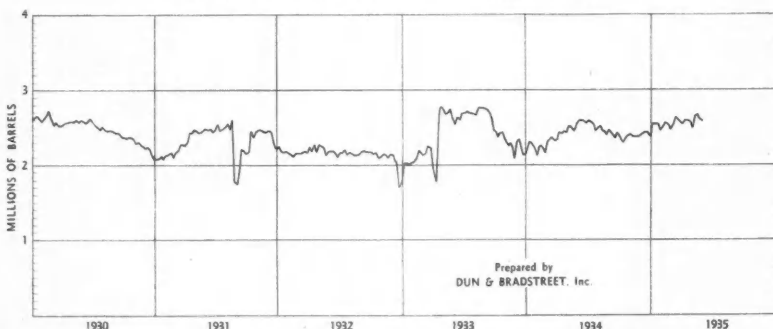
**T**HE spread between the actual output of crude oil and the Federal agency allowable was further narrowed in the week ended June 1, according to the report of the American Petroleum Institute. The excess of 14,700 barrels compared with an excess running as high as 100,000 barrels recently.

Daily average production for the week was 2,575,900 barrels, against 2,605,300 the week before, a loss of 29,400 a day. In the like week of 1934 output averaged 2,453,500 barrels a day. Refinery operations for the week were at the rate of 72.7 per cent of capacity, as against 74.5 per cent the week before.

Following are the daily average crude oil production figures for recent weeks, in barrels:

	1935	1934	1933
June 1.....	2,576,000	2,453,000	2,676,000
May 25.....	2,605,000	2,493,000	2,635,000
May 18.....	2,650,000	2,514,000	2,705,000
May 11.....	2,620,000	2,523,000	2,734,000
May 4.....	2,494,000	2,430,000	2,649,000
Apr. 27.....	2,561,000	2,450,000	2,383,000
Apr. 20.....	2,590,000	2,431,000	1,706,000
Apr. 13.....	2,582,000	2,449,000	1,934,000
Apr. 6.....	2,536,000	2,338,000	2,221,000
Mar. 30.....	2,563,000	2,325,000	2,240,000
Mar. 23.....	2,600,000	2,390,000	2,250,000
Mar. 16.....	2,608,000	2,378,000	2,126,000
Mar. 9.....	2,526,000	2,314,000	2,116,000
Mar. 2.....	2,474,000	2,183,000	2,148,000
Feb. 23.....	2,536,000	2,226,000	2,193,000
Feb. 16.....	2,568,000	2,280,000	2,083,000
Feb. 9.....	2,511,000	2,284,000	2,025,000
Feb. 2.....	2,448,000	2,122,000	2,028,000
Jan. 26.....	2,542,000	2,223,000	2,009,000
Jan. 19.....	2,531,000	2,295,000	2,015,000
Jan. 12.....	2,539,000	2,311,000	2,011,000
Jan. 5.....	2,389,000	2,166,000	1,777,000

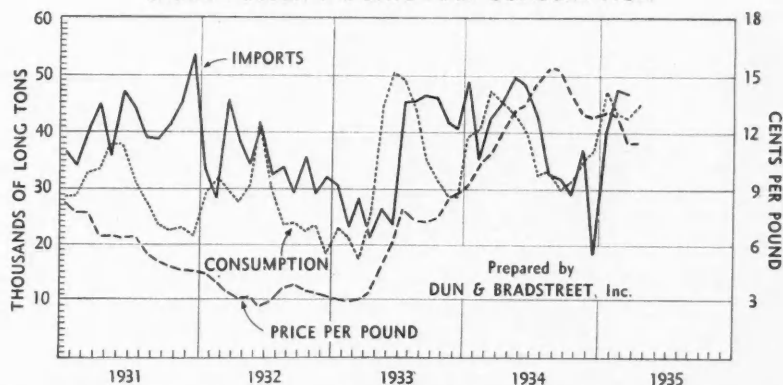
## CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION (Daily Average)



The weekly movement of daily average production is shown in the chart. The excess output over Federal allowables, which ran as high as 100,000 barrels recently, was much reduced in the final week of May.

# OF MAJOR TRENDS

## CRUDE RUBBER IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION



Domestic stocks of crude rubber on hand and afloat are at the lowest since September, 1932. Current consumption continues at a high rate, total use for the year to date surpassing the previous 1929 peak.

### CRUDE RUBBER CONSUMPTION

WITH consumption running at a fairly high rate, stocks of crude rubber on hand and afloat to the United States continued to decline during April. The price situation also has shown improvement recently. From a high of almost 14c. per pound in January, the quotation for standard ribbed sheets reached a low of 10½c. in March and at the end of May was generally quoted above the 12c. level.

April consumption at 44,714 tons was a trifle under the same month of last year, although 4.9 per cent above March of this year.

### Crude Rubber Consumption \*

	1935	1934	1933	1932
Jan. ...	47,103	39,284	22,645	29,648
Feb. ...	43,187	40,609	21,392	31,821
Mar. ...	42,620	47,097	17,483	29,505
Apr. ...	44,714	44,947	25,928	27,518
May ...	...	43,012	44,074	30,957
June ...	...	40,241	50,743	41,475
July ...	...	32,647	49,614	29,976
Aug. ...	...	33,310	44,428	23,721
Sept. ...	...	30,352	35,281	23,847
Oct. ...	...	31,347	31,543	22,286
Nov. ...	...	34,842	28,831	23,231
Dec. ...	...	36,662	28,757	18,015
Total. ....	454,350	400,719	332,000	

\* Source: Rubber Manufacturers' Association.

Rubber use during the first four months of 1935 established a new peak of 177,624 tons. This was higher than the previous record for that period recorded in 1929 by 0.4 per cent.

Domestic stocks of crude rubber on hand and afloat at the end of April stood at 372,605 tons, the lowest since September, 1932.

### World Stocks of Crude Rubber \*

(On Hand and Afloat for the U. S.)

	1935	1934	1933	1932
Jan. ...	388,150	414,428	428,915	365,094
Feb. ...	382,304	411,744	414,692	370,604
Mar. ...	383,185	407,619	419,666	373,776
Apr. ...	372,605	408,232	412,912	377,344
May ...	...	409,250	407,965	387,172
June ...	...	404,847	397,562	377,736
July ...	...	410,752	384,044	371,623
Aug. ...	...	402,925	378,232	385,734
Sept. ...	...	398,498	391,982	342,342
Oct. ...	...	400,265	402,147	398,458
Nov. ...	...	399,861	410,992	401,265
Dec. ...	...	400,276	419,147	417,360

\* Source: Rubber Manufacturers' Association.

## ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION

THE daily average production of electricity during April was 1 per cent higher than in March, as compared with a normal seasonal drop of about 1 per cent.

Total output in April, according to the U. S. Geological Survey, was 7,819,000,000 kilowatt-hours, the highest for that month since 1931. The April figure represented an increase of 5 per cent over the same month of 1934, whereas the March comparison with last year showed a gain of 4 per cent.

### Monthly Electricity Production \*

(Millions of kilowatt-hours)

	1935	1934	1933	1932
January ...	8,349	7,631	6,965	7,567
February ...	7,494	7,049	6,297	7,023
March ...	8,012	7,717	6,687	7,323
April ...	7,819	7,443	6,478	6,790
May ...	...	7,683	7,013	6,650
June ...	...	7,472	7,242	6,563
July ...	...	7,605	7,491	6,547
August ...	...	7,710	7,688	6,764
September ...	...	7,206	7,550	6,752
October ...	...	7,831	7,479	7,073
November ...	...	7,606	7,243	6,952
December ...	...	8,058	7,470	7,149
Total ...	...	91,011	85,403	83,153

\* Source: U. S. Geological Survey.

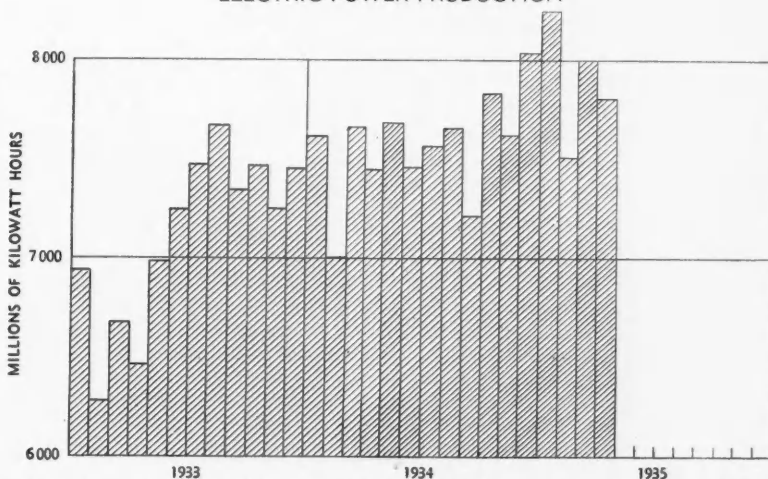
### Weekly Electricity Output \*

(Millions of kilowatt-hours)

	1935	1934	1933
June 1 ...	1,628,520	1,575,828	1,461,000
May 25 ...	1,696,051	1,654,903	1,494,000
May 18 ...	1,700,022	1,649,770	1,483,000
May 11 ...	1,701,702	1,643,433	1,468,000
May 4 ...	1,698,178	1,632,766	1,436,000
Apr. 27 ...	1,673,293	1,668,564	1,428,000
Apr. 20 ...	1,701,945	1,672,765	1,431,000
Apr. 13 ...	1,725,352	1,642,187	1,410,000
Apr. 6 ...	1,700,334	1,616,945	1,399,000

\* Source: Edison Electric Institute.

## ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCTION



While the total output of electricity during April declined slightly from the preceding month, the daily average production showed a gain of 1 per cent, against a usual decrease of approximately 1 per cent

# SALES OF JEWELRY EXTENDING GAINS OF LAST TWO YEARS

**S**IGNS of general business recovery are being reflected more distinctly in the bright new jewelry which the women of the country are displaying with more lavishness than at any time since 1929. The broadening of demand practically has been uninterrupted since the Summer of 1933, when the long down-trend was checked. Although the abrupt rise of that year was not equalled, distribution of jewelry in 1934 was in excess of the 1933 total on an average of 30 to 40 per cent, with volume in a number of districts running as high as 75 per cent.

In spite of this encouraging showing, and the heavy movement of jewelry during the final month of 1934, total of dollar sales during the first quarter of 1935 ranged from 10 to 20 per cent higher than during the comparative three months of the year preceding, even though declines were reported for some of the drought-affected and flooded districts in the Southwest. Most of the jewelry manufacturers increased operating schedules in January, following the reduction in December from the high levels which were necessary during October and November to take care of the unexpected rush of special Christmas orders. Some of the silverware manufacturers were less active in the first quarter, as buyers covered future requirements prior to the price advance on January 1.

Retailers' stocks generally are low, despite generous buying since the first of the year, and many regret the lack of larger inventories, in view of the benefits accruing from the steady appreciation in the values of merchandise. Gifts for school and college graduations

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*Definite shift toward more expensive merchandise. In some of the industrial centers, retailers handling higher-priced lines doing better business than those carrying cheaper grades. Sales for first quarter averaged 10 to 20 per cent higher than during comparative 1934 period. Trend of prices upward.*

and early Summer weddings are being counted upon to hold sales at a high level until the second half of the year opens, which is the busiest season for this industry.

## Novelty Items Leading

The steady broadening of consumer demand now is spreading to nearly all items of jewelry in its inclusiveness. Articles of gold are particularly favored, with silver a close second, chiefly in the form of bracelets, clips, rings, pins, and earrings, as the correct delineation of the prevailing mode emphasizes their use.

Being extreme, novel, and frequently bizarre, the number of designs offered in these two metals alone has enabled retailers to maintain a steady uptrend in sales thus far this year. While demand is decidedly stronger than it was a year ago for the better grades of merchandise, the largest volume continues to be recorded for medium and low-priced costume jewelry, watches, silverware, and the smaller diamonds.

Possibly as a result of the sharp rise in the price of the base metal, buying of silverware, both in sterling hollow-ware and solid silver has increased steadily since the first of the year. Men's jewelry also has been more sought than at any time in the last three years, with wrist watches, gold pencils, knives, and smokers' accessories leading in this division.

While there has been less interest in rings, wrist watches, and bracelets of platinum since December, diamonds of one carat and less continue to sell well. There has been a steady increase in the sale of staple goods, such as clocks, pocket watches, and other practical lines of jewelry. During the last eight months there has been a definite trend toward more expensive merchandise, and in some of the industrial centers the stores handling higher-priced lines have had better business than those carrying the cheaper grades. Most of the installment jewelry stores commenced the year with a substantial carry-over from the Christmas trade, but sales during January approximately were 18 per cent ahead of those for the same month of 1934.

During subsequent weeks, however, demand declined, so that for the first quarter the gain over the preceding year's volume amounted to not more than 10 per cent. Repair departments in most parts of the country reported a steady improvement during the first quarter.

## Price Level Rising

Prices gradually have risen on nearly all items during the past fifteen months, the average being about 15 per cent, with diamonds and imported watches higher by nearly 25 per cent. Gold merchandise, in many instances, has been marked up 40 per cent. On account of the advance in price, much old gold is being turned in, and there is more trading in junk gold than a year ago.

In the early part of 1934, prices of sterling silver articles were raised 5 to 20 per cent, and certain plated silverware merchandise 5

to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. In spite of the rise in commercial silver in the interim, there were no further mark-ups made until January 1. Because of the rapidly-rising quotation for silver bullion, manufacturers of sterling silverware announced increases averaging 10 per cent toward the close of April, with an additional advance in prospect early in the Summer, due to the recent Government action to raise the buying price for newly-mined domestic silver and the rising trend of world quotations.

Retail collections in most districts have held to the improved position gained last year and generally are reported as excellent. Some retailers have adopted a more liberal policy in regard to the opening of new charge accounts, as the result of the improvement in general buying power. Wholesale collections, especially from the South, have shown considerable slowness of late. As new installment accounts are being scrutinized closely, collections in this division are held to be in the best shape in a number of years, with payments being met promptly, as a rule.

#### Baltimore

Following a year in which the dollar volume of sales rose to heights 75 per cent or more in excess of the level of the several preceding years, the jewelry trade during the first quarter of 1935 showed a decline of approximately 5 per cent from the comparative period last year. The unit volume, however, did not vary materially during this period, the increase last year being attributed to advanced prices, particularly the phenomenal climb of gold-base jewelry.

Business being received by wholesalers from the Eastern industrial centers is fairly well maintained and in some instances surpasses in volume that of last year.

#### Buffalo

Production in the Buffalo district is 15 per cent better than a

year ago in dollar value and 10 per cent in units. The price of newly-mined silver has been going up steadily, with the result that contracts are being made for foreign silver bullion, which is being imported.

There has been a price advance of 15 per cent in silverware, with an increase in sales of at least 25 per cent over a year ago.

#### Cincinnati

In conformity with improved industrial conditions, wholesale distribution of jewelry has been consistently upward. Despite the seasonal restraint in practically all departments during the first quarter of 1935, sales were in excess of the volume handled during the corresponding period of the preceding year. In the aggregate, the volume transacted during 1934 ranged from 30 to 35 per cent in excess of the totals of 1933.

Demand has been centered principally on popular-priced costume jewelry, watches, and fancy cut stones, but a noticeable leaning toward better grades is considered encouraging.

#### Cleveland

Retail jewelry sales last year were 15 to 20 per cent higher than in 1933. After an active holiday

volume, which in some instances was as much as 40 per cent above the previous year's, business fell off in the first quarter. Recessions were partly attributable to the State sales tax. Currently, trade has been showing seasonal improvement.

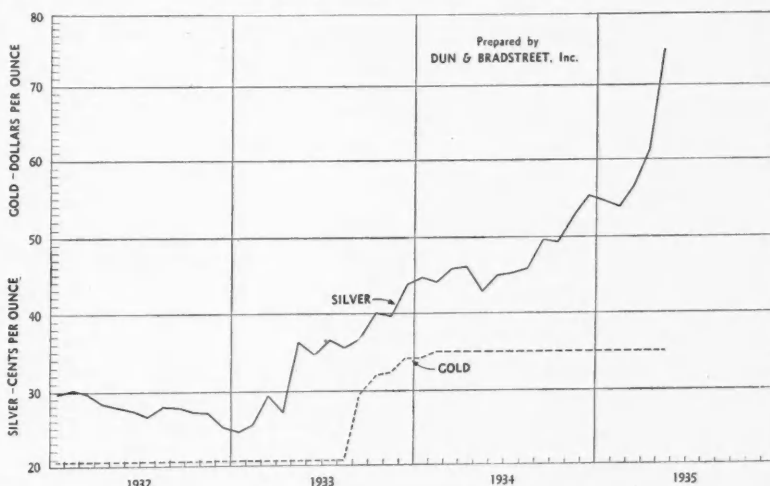
Demand has been for a better grade of merchandise than a year ago, although volume continues to be obtained largely from medium and low-priced articles. Costume jewelry, watches, silverware, and smaller diamonds are moving most actively. Sales of the more expensive precious stones still are restricted. Installment jewelry business has benefited from increased employment in the laboring classes.

#### Dallas

Although an increase in sales was recorded in March, the gain was not sufficient to offset the decline that occurred in January and February. As a result, sales at wholesale for the first quarter of 1935 were 5 to 10 per cent below those for the same period last year. The showing of retailers was somewhat better than that of the wholesalers.

Two factors seem to predominate in the slackened wholesale demand. One is the continued

VALUE OF SILVER AND GOLD  
(Prices on First of Each Month)



Although the general trend is upward, prices of jewelry average only 15 to 20 per cent higher than a year ago, despite the advance in base metal costs. The silver quotation on May 1, 1935, for instance, attained a new peak at 75.7 cents, an increase of 77.3 per cent from its position on May 1, 1934, at 43.7 cents.

drought, which has seriously affected crops in sections that normally furnish a large proportion of the trade. The other factor is the short terms effective under the prevailing codes which wholesalers claim have promoted "hand-to-mouth" buying among the small retailers.

#### Detroit

Manufacturing volume in units in the few lines that are produced here was about 5 to 7 per cent ahead of that for the first quarter of 1934. Manufacturers' prices were 10 to 15 per cent higher than a year ago, so that the total dollar volume was close to 20 per cent greater.

Both wholesale and retail sales have been benefited by better local conditions and are 10 to 15 per cent heavier than last year. Prices gradually have risen all along the line during the past year.

#### Kansas City

Since January 1 there has been a satisfying upward trend in the jewelry business in the greater Kansas City trade territory. The leading retail dealers report that sales are exceeding those for the same period of a year ago by 10 to 25 per cent. Sales during March were slightly behind the total of March, 1934.

Local dealers are buying rather heavily in diamonds and silverware, anticipating an increase in prices during the next few months. Wholesale jewelers report that orders so far this year are exceeding those of the corresponding period in 1934 by 25 per cent.

#### Rochester

There are no manufacturers of jewelry in this city. Wholesalers report that diamonds and watches of moderate price continue to be the best-selling items. Diamonds of one carat, selling at \$250 to \$300, are moving well, and low-priced men's wrist watches are unusually active.

Prices of gold jewelry have remained fairly stationary since the first of the year, but silver items

have advanced, with the trend strongly upward. The general opinion is that business will continue to improve, in view of the fact that the Government will spend such large amounts of money during the coming year.

#### St. Louis

Dollar volume for the first quarter of 1935 was about the same as for the corresponding period last year. Demand was largely for costume jewelry of the inexpensive variety. Selling prices of gold and silver jewelry have advanced, in accordance with the increase of those metals.

Collections of installment jewelry houses are reported as fair. Local jewelers consulted seem optimistic concerning the outlook, due to the gradual improvement of economic conditions.

#### Seattle

Wholesalers and jobbers of jewelry, novelties, and fashion goods in this district report increased sales for the first three months of 1935 to the extent of approximately 15 per cent over the same period of a year ago. Collections are about equal to last year's, and prospects for the future appear favorable.

Installment jewelry stores showed a 10 per cent gain over sales for the same period last year. The unit price of popular merchandise has increased but slightly during recent months. However, there is a noticeable tendency for a steady upward climb following the fluctuations of the gold and silver market.

Combining the failures of manufacturers, retailers, and wholesalers, the number for 1934 was lowered to 142 from 440 in 1933, giving a decrease of 67.7 per cent, and represented the smallest total in the history of the trade. When compared with the previous low, which was touched in 1929 at 434, the reduction amounted to 67.3 per cent, and to 83.0 per cent from the peak total, which was reached in 1932 at 835.

In spite of the reduction in the number of manufacturers that failed in 1934, the defaulted indebtedness rose to \$570,947 from \$386,834 in 1933, a gain of 47.6 per cent, and larger by 383.9 per cent than the low for this group, which was set down at \$118,000 in 1930. For the bankrupt retailers and wholesalers, on the other hand, the involved liabilities in 1934 dropped to \$1,874,221 from \$7,425,030 in 1933, or smaller by 74.8 per cent, and marked a new low.

For all branches of the trade the money lost through failures in 1934 was the smallest on record, totalling only \$2,445,168. This was a decline of 66.7 per cent from the 1933 total of involved liabilities, and represented a reduction of 87.5 per cent in the money which the trade has been forced to lose because of bankruptcies since 1932, when the record high was touched at \$19,489,039.

The complete insolvency record of the jewelry trade since 1927, including the first quarter of 1935, as compiled by Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., shows:

#### Manufacturers

Year	Number	Liabilities
1927.....	34	\$619,000
1928.....	83	1,301,000
1929.....	13	322,776
1930.....	15	118,000
1931.....	31	720,359
1932.....	56	1,824,864
1933.....	30	386,834
1934.....	17	570,947
1935*.....	3	42,653

#### Retailers and Wholesalers

Year	Number	Liabilities
1927.....	420	\$7,591,560
1928.....	473	8,158,367
1929.....	421	8,206,243
1930.....	493	8,074,319
1931.....	663	12,885,357
1932.....	779	17,664,175
1933.....	410	7,425,030
1934.....	125	1,874,221
1935*.....	21	270,050

(\*) January to March, inclusive.

#### Fewest Failures on Record

While the number of jewelry manufacturers declared bankrupt in 1934 dropped to 17 from 30 in 1933, giving a difference of 43.3 per cent, this total was in excess of the all-time low established in 1929 at 13. The 125 failures listed for retailers and wholesalers in 1934 not only gave a reduction of 69.5 per cent from the total of 410 set down for 1933, but were the fewest for any year on record.

# NEW PEAKS SET FOR SALES OF ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES IN 1935

**A**FTER an almost continuous rise in both production and distribution of electrical supplies since the Summer of 1933, which resulted in 1934 volume exceeding that of the year preceding by 30 to 40 per cent, the gain has been even more emphasized thus far in 1935.

For the first four months, sales have been set ahead of the 1934 figures by 20 to 35 per cent, with the increase in some items running to 50 to 70 per cent.

The improvement in volume is attributed principally to increased demand from industrial sources, where the strengthened sentiment regarding the future is finding expression in extensive modernization and rehabilitation work. Moreover, many of the heavy industries which have been dormant for some time now are coming into the market for new equipment, such as turbines, generators, motors, controls, and transformers.

New business derived from contractors, in conjunction with building projects, has not been impressive thus far. As building permits for residences in many parts of the country, however, are running double those of a year ago, prospects are encouraging for an abrupt upswing in this division during the third quarter.

Consistent consumer demand for electrical household appliances, especially refrigerators, ranges, washing machines, and ironers has been an outstanding feature of the industry, with estimates showing that the point of saturation has not been even approached. Based on the gain made during the opening months, volume for 1935 is placed conservatively at 10 to 25 per cent above that of 1934, with a larger percentage of increase prob-

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*Operating schedules of manufacturers averaging 50 per cent above 1934 level, with sales volume larger by 20 to 30 per cent. Earnings for first quarter largest since 1930, following gains of 40 to 50 per cent in 1934. Sales of electric appliances reaching new peaks. Power consumption at all-time high.*

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able, provided proposed plans for rural electrification be carried out.

## Production Level Raised

Many of the manufacturers entered 1935 with the total of unfilled orders on their books 20 to 50 per cent larger than on January 1, 1934, and with the subsequent buying were forced to lift operating schedules on an average of 50 per cent above the preceding year's level. In a number of divisions, output during the first four months of the current year was double and triple that of the comparative period of 1934. Output of automobile harness and electric light fixtures at some centers rose 100 per cent, due to the heavy demands of automobile producers and the redecoration and renovation of apartments and rental properties long vacant.

During January and February alone, producers shipped 91 per cent more refrigerators to distribution outlets than a year ago. Orders for panel boards, switches, and air-conditioning supplies have averaged a gain of about 25 per cent, and the rapid expansion of sales in the air-conditioning field is providing a close parallel to the phenomenal progress made by some other divisions. While the larger sales have not compensated for rising costs of labor and materials in all instances, operations have been profitable in most cases, and some concerns had profits in

1934 that were 40 to 50 per cent larger than those in 1933, despite pay roll increases of 70 per cent and more. For the first three months of the current year, earnings of some of the large companies rose to the highest total for any quarterly period since the days of 1930, when the earnings had not yet started to slip.

## Sales Reach New Peak

Representative distributors of electrical supplies and appliances in many parts of the country report sales for the first four months of the current year in excess of all comparative records back to 1931, with new peaks touched in some items. Gains over 1934 average 30 to 50 per cent, although sales of ranges have risen as much as 70 per cent in those areas where gas is not available and power companies are furnishing free installations in country districts.

Sales of household electric refrigerators have advanced about 50 per cent thus far this year, following the new peak reached in 1934 at 1,390,000 units, with a dollar value of \$239,980,000. In spite of the increase in the number of low-priced models now being offered, dollar volume of sales for 1935 is estimated at \$300,000,000, and unit sales at 1,800,000, which will represent only 28.2 per cent of the market's saturation point.

Factory shipments of household washing machines during some months this year were the largest in the industry's history, even though total sales for 1934 were 1,240,284 units, an all-time record, and 20.6 per cent higher than in 1933. Sales of ironing machines in 1934 increased 65.8 per cent over 1933, reaching 116,069 units, the highest total on record.

The breadth of the expansion in the use of household electrical appliances is revealed by the gain in electric output. After the home use of electricity reached a new high in 1934 at 12,797,635,000 kilowatt-hours, sales of electricity to domestic customers in January, 1935, rose to an all-time peak at 1,316,743,000 kilowatt-hours. The number of domestic customers on the lines of the electric light and power industry in the country also attained a record total for January, and the revenue from all classes of consumers was the highest since January, 1932.

#### Few Price Changes

There have been some minor price fluctuations during the past six months, but the general level is about where it was a year ago, with the exception of electric light bulbs, which have been reduced around 25 per cent to meet foreign competition.

Any revisions in the near future are expected to be in an upward direction, as buyers of electrical supplies never have received more for each dollar spent than this year. In electric refrigerators, many of the low-priced units now display features which formerly were incorporated only in the high-priced models, and the same is true of ranges, washers, vacuum cleaners, and the general run of labor-saving kitchen appliances.

#### Albany

Representative distributors of electrical supplies and appliances report a substantial gain in sales volume for the first quarter of 1935, as compared with the like period of 1934. Sales of refrigerators and washing machines exceeded those of a year ago by 20 per cent, while electrical supplies increased nearly 25 per cent.

#### Atlanta

Distributors of household appliances are inaugurating active campaigns for Spring and Summer sales and report very satisfactory results, particularly in the larger units. The demand for general

supplies and building requirements is quiet, though considerable inquiry is evident and a satisfactory future business is expected.

#### Baltimore

Further increases are being registered in the distribution of electric refrigerators and electric appliances in the housewares department. Unit distribution is showing an increase of fully 25 per cent, while dollar value is several points greater.

The present price level is firm at 8 to 10 per cent above last year's. Prospects for the year are favorable for improved business in this trade over 1934.

#### Birmingham

The electrical supply trade reports some moderate increase in volume since the first of the year. Sales approximately are 10 per cent ahead of one year ago, with current inquiries indicating a probable further increase. Outlook appears more favorable than for several months, with optimism principally based upon a general stimulation of business activity throughout this section.

#### Boston

In spite of the prevailing pessimism, the electrical supply trade in Boston reports that there was a moderate increase for the first three months of this year over the corresponding period of 1934. However, the outlook is not considered very favorable for the New England districts.

Dollar and unit sales have shown an increase of 10 to 20 per cent, employment and pay rolls remain the same. Prices are 5 to 10 per cent higher. Inventories are 10 to 20 per cent lower.

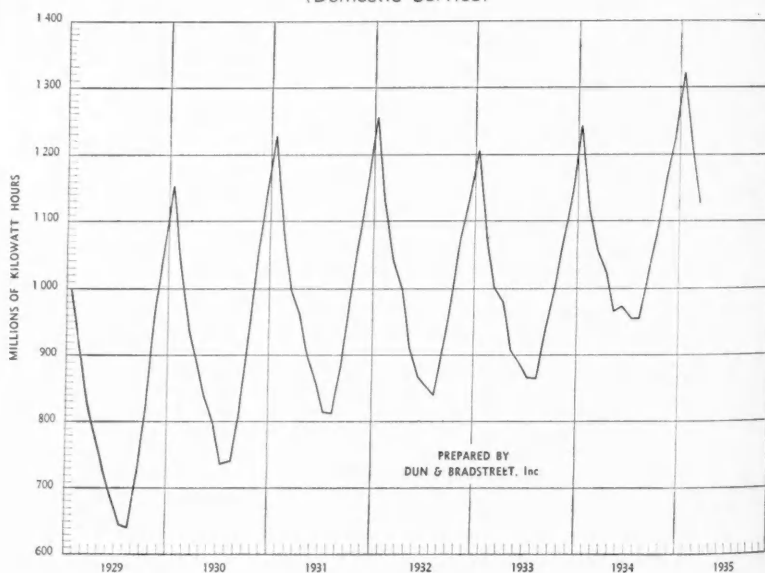
#### Cincinnati

During recent months, distribution of electrical supplies and appliances has been definitely upward. In respect to unit sales, results from first-quarter operations were the most encouraging since 1931. Improvement in volume is attributed principally to increased demand from industrial sources, where sentiment gradually is being strengthened.

#### Cleveland

Gains recorded by manufacturers of electrical equipment and

ELECTRICITY SOLD TO ULTIMATE CONSUMERS \*  
(Domestic Service)



(\*) Based on statistics compiled by the Edison Electric Institute.

After the home use of electricity reached a new high in 1934 at 12,797,635,000 kilowatt-hours, sales of electricity to domestic consumers in January, 1935, rose to an all-time peak of 1,316,743,000. This was an increase of 5.9 per cent over January, 1934, and exceeded the previous record struck in January, 1933.

supplies in 1934 are being carried over into the current year. Sales during the first two months were considerably larger than in the corresponding period of 1934. March also showed improvement, although expansion in volume was smaller. Employment increased more than seasonally in February, and was 10 per cent higher than in the like month of the previous year. Employment in 1934 averaged 29 per cent above that of 1933.

#### Dallas

Sales through April showed increases up to 25 per cent over the corresponding period of 1934. This marked improvement was attributed to a mild boom in local building and repair work.

The price level is slightly higher than at this time last year, although not enough to materially affect the dollar volume. Recent comments in the trade are more favorable than for several years.

#### Detroit

Two types of electrical goods lead in this area: Automobile harness and electric light fixtures. In both groups, manufacturing increases of approximately 100 per cent have been reported over the first quarter of 1934.

In other electrical lines, such as industrial equipment, panel boards, switches, and air-conditioning supplies, sales are about 25 per cent ahead of the comparable period of last year. Demand for electrical supplies used in construction, although showing a gain over 1934, has yet to reach a normal level.

#### Kansas City

The leading wholesale electrical supply dealers here report that sales so far this year are exceeding those for the same period in 1934 by from 18 to 40 per cent. The increase is noted principally in lamps, electric fixtures, and miscellaneous electric supplies. The dealers report that their increase in volume has been obtained principally from the country merchants.

#### Louisville

Wholesale electrical supplies since the first of the year have shown an increase of 5 to 10 per cent, in most instances, in comparison with the same period of 1934. Retail sales have shown an increase of about 5 to 10 per cent and, with warmer weather approaching, outside construction work should show improvement.

#### Milwaukee

The demand for heavy motors, generators, transformers, and kindred items has resulted in an increase in production of 10 per cent over a year ago, with a corresponding increase in values. Household appliances are moving well. The industry, as a whole, feels encouraged and optimistic as to the future demand for its products.

#### Minneapolis

Gains approximating 15 to 20 per cent were made during the first quarter of 1935 in sales of electrical household appliances, as compared with totals for this period in 1934. The demand for other types of electrical merchandise has been less marked, though volume was increased by a good percentage.

#### Pittsburgh

There are a number of large concerns manufacturing electrical equipment in the Pittsburgh district. Most of these report business as materially larger than a year ago. Production for the first quarter averaged about 50 per cent above the level of the same quarter of 1934.

The orders now on hand are believed sufficient, plus prospective ones, to maintain the present rate during the Summer.

#### Failures at All-Time Low

The continuous decline in bankruptcies since 1931, when the record high was reached at 57, lowered the number of failures among manufacturers of electrical supplies to 18 for 1934. The latter total, however, was higher than

that for 1928 and 1929, when 16 and 13, respectively, was recorded. For wholesalers and retailers of electrical supplies, on the other hand, the 49 failures listed for 1934 represented the smallest total on record, and contrasted with 169 for 1932, which was the all-time high.

Combining the insolvencies of manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers, the total of 67 in 1934 was the lowest touched in the history of the trade, and marked the first time that the figure had dropped below 100 for any year. The 1934 total was lower by 51.1 per cent than the 137 for 1933, and when contrasted with 217 in 1931, which was the peak, the decline amounted to 69.1 per cent.

For the amount of money which the trade was forced to lose because of bankruptcies, 1934 also established a new low in the trade's history, as total defaulted indebtedness was cut to \$868,642, a difference of 62.9 per cent from the 1933 total of \$1,471,142, and was the first time that the loss was less than a million dollars. Even in 1929 and the years preceding it, the trade's annual loss through failures amounted to \$2,000,000 and more. When contrasted with the involved liabilities of \$4,589,173 in 1932, which was the largest on record, the 1934 total represented a reduction of 81.1 per cent.

The complete insolvency record of the electrical supply trade since 1927, including the first four months of 1935, as compiled by Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., shows:

#### Manufacturers

Year	Number	Liabilities
1927.....	19	\$897,592
1928.....	16	257,400
1929.....	13	232,900
1930.....	24	453,848
1931.....	57	1,571,158
1932.....	40	1,306,119
1933.....	31	499,118
1934.....	18	235,588
1935*.....	2	8,250

#### Wholesalers and Retailers

Year	Number	Liabilities
1927.....	157	\$2,359,738
1928.....	126	4,047,229
1929.....	123	2,455,900
1930.....	143	2,509,904
1931.....	160	2,250,976
1932.....	169	3,283,054
1933.....	106	1,840,666
1934.....	49	635,054
1935*.....	25	265,331

(\* ) January to April, inclusive.

# DOWNTREND OF FAILURES RESUMED DURING MAY

FOR more than a year commercial failures in the United States have been reduced in number, dropping sharply below the peak levels of 1932 and for many months falling under all comparative figures since 1920. Liabilities involved in these business defaults, also have been relatively small in amount. Some variation has occurred in the monthly reports of failures, but the change has not been great.

## Failures in May

Year	Number	Liabilities
1920.....	547	\$10,826,277
1921.....	1,356	57,066,471
1922.....	1,960	44,402,886
1923.....	1,530	41,022,277
1924.....	1,816	36,590,907
1925.....	1,767	37,026,552
1926.....	1,730	33,543,318
1927.....	1,852	37,784,773
1928.....	2,008	36,116,990
1929.....	1,897	41,215,865
1930.....	2,179	55,541,462
1931.....	2,248	53,371,212
1932.....	2,788	83,763,521
1933.....	1,909	47,971,573
1934.....	977	22,560,835
1935.....	1,027	15,669,627

For May this year 1,027 commercial failures were reported. These figures compared with 1,115

similar defaults in April and 977 in May, 1934. For May in the earlier years of this decade and back to 1920, the number was higher. The high point reached for that month was in 1932, when there were 2,788 failures reported.

Liabilities involved in the insolvencies that occurred in the month just closed reached a total of \$15,669,627. In April this year the amount was \$18,063,923, and for May, 1934, it was \$22,560,835. The high point for May, was in 1932, when the total involved for

that month was \$83,763,521. Liabilities throughout 1932 were very high for each month in that year.

For the first five months of this year, the number of business defaults reported in the United States was 5,307, with liabilities amounting to \$89,817,744. During the same period a year ago, the records showed 5,544 similar defaults, with a total of indebtedness of \$127,925,467. The increase that appeared in the number of failures in the five months of this year was wholly in the months of April and May. In the first three months of 1935, comprising the first quarter of the year, business failures were less numerous than they were in the same period of the preceding year. For each month this year to date liabilities have been considerably less than they were in the same months of 1934.

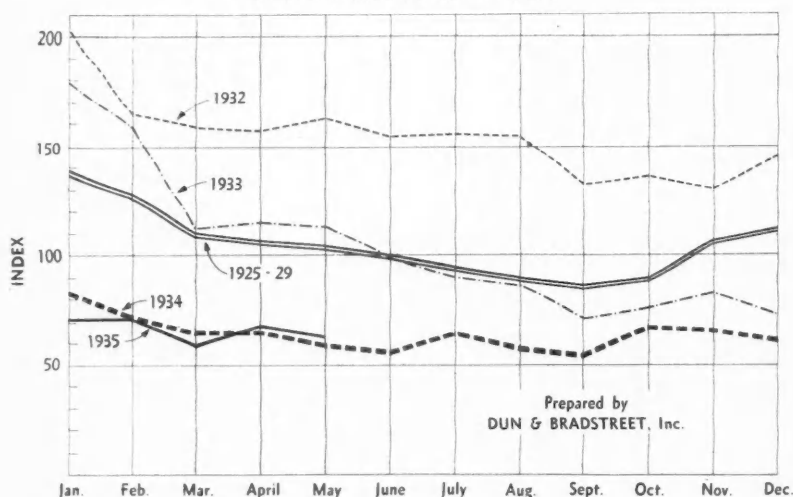
As previously noted, the number of business failures in each month this year has varied slightly. The number in January, at the opening of the new year was above the preceding month, though the increase was less than normal. There was some reduction in February and March; failures for the first quarter of this year were lower than in 1934. In the first two months of the second quarter the number of failures increased.

## DUN'S INSOLVENCY INDEX

### Ratio of Commercial Failures to Each 10,000 Business Concerns

	Monthly					5-Year Average		Monthly		
	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1925-29 Ratio	1922	1921	1920
January.....	71.3	82.5	179.4	201.8	188.4	150.2	139.5	160.0	173.7	126.2
February.....	71.5	71.9	159.0	165.9	169.0	146.7	128.2	147.0	168.7	123.4
March.....	58.7	64.2	111.4	159.7	146.0	128.4	110.4	126.6	144.8	98.1
April.....	67.2	65.4	115.3	188.0	134.1	125.0	107.4	123.0	137.3	93.8
May.....	62.1	59.2	113.9	162.0	131.7	119.9	104.5	119.8	124.4	88.5
June.....	63.1	99.9	155.2	112.4	114.4	100.8	115.6	105.4	82.7	29.5
July.....	56.9	90.4	156.3	112.1	112.4	95.7	109.7	110.4	93.6	29.9
August.....	54.3	86.7	155.5	111.3	105.7	90.9	104.2	99.8	93.4	29.4
September.....	53.6	71.0	132.1	114.0	112.9	87.2	100.0	98.5	94.5	30.3
October.....	66.2	76.6	137.8	134.7	117.0	90.2	103.8	107.3	109.8	105.8
November.....	65.3	82.1	130.9	141.2	127.0	107.1	122.8	112.3	132.8	109.7
December.....	60.5	74.0	145.3	158.8	140.7	112.0	128.3	114.0	159.6	116.2
Five months.....	66.2	68.7	135.8	169.5	150.9	132.1	118.0	149.8	106.0	27.1
Year.....	61.7	103.6	153.3	133.4	120.7	105.6	.....	119.4	102.0	48.8

## DUN'S INSOLVENCY INDEX



As a base for the normal trend of commercial failures, the average for the five years 1925 to 1929, inclusive, is used in the compilation of Dun's Insolvency Index. During 1932 and the first six months of 1933, the index was above this average, but since June, 1933, has been constantly under it, touching some new lows.

## Insolvency Index

Dun's Insolvency Index will perhaps illustrate conditions regarding failures more clearly than the statement showing the actual figures. The Insolvency Index is computed on the basis of the number of commercial defaults to each 10,000 firms in business. For the five months this year the Insolvency Index was slightly lower than that for the same period a year ago. The comparison between the two years shows that the reduction this year was largely in January.

### Monthly and Quarterly Failure Figures

	Number			Liabilities
	1935	1934	1933	1935
May	1,027	977	1,909	\$15,669,627
April	1,115	1,052	1,921	18,065,923
March	976	1,102	1,948	\$18,522,840
February	1,005	1,049	2,378	18,737,657
January	1,184	1,364	2,919	18,823,697
1st Quarter	3,165	3,515	7,245	\$56,084,194
	1934	1933	1932	1934
December	963	1,132	2,469	\$19,910,610
November	923	1,237	2,073	18,349,791
October	1,091	1,206	2,273	19,968,448
4th Quarter	2,977	3,575	6,815	\$58,228,849
September	790	1,116	2,182	\$16,440,147
August	929	1,472	2,796	18,459,903
July	912	1,421	2,596	19,325,517
3rd Quarter	2,631	4,009	7,574	\$54,225,567
June	1,033	1,648	2,688	\$23,868,293
May	977	1,909	2,788	22,560,835
April	1,052	1,921	2,816	25,786,975
2nd Quarter	3,062	5,478	8,292	\$72,216,103
March	1,102	1,948	2,951	\$27,227,511
February	1,049	2,378	2,732	19,444,718
January	1,364	2,919	3,458	32,905,428
1st Quarter	3,515	7,245	9,141	\$79,577,657
	1933	1932	1931	1933
December	1,132	2,469	2,758	\$27,200,432
November	1,237	2,073	2,195	25,353,376
October	1,206	2,273	2,362	30,581,970
4th Quarter	3,575	6,815	7,315	\$83,135,778
September	1,116	2,182	1,936	\$21,846,906
August	1,472	2,796	1,944	42,776,049
July	1,421	2,596	1,983	27,481,103
3rd Quarter	4,009	7,574	5,863	\$92,104,058
June	1,648	2,688	1,993	\$35,344,909
May	1,909	2,788	2,248	47,971,573
April	1,921	2,816	2,383	51,097,384
2nd Quarter	5,478	8,292	6,624	\$134,413,866
March	1,948	2,951	2,604	\$48,500,212
February	2,378	2,732	2,563	65,576,068
January	2,919	3,458	3,316	79,100,602
1st Quarter	7,245	9,141	8,483	\$193,176,882

This decline was wholly in the first quarter of the year. There was a slight decline for February, and the Index for March was the lowest for the year to date. Both for April and May this year there was an increase over those months

## Failures by Federal Reserve Districts—May

Districts	Number			Liabilities	
	1935	1934	1933	1935	1934
Boston (1)	114	97	214	\$1,675,004	\$1,396,556
New York (2)	336	326	476	6,125,995	7,562,024
Philadelphia (3)	43	36	87	900,384	2,118,435
Cleveland (4)	88	73	145	1,440,703	3,533,668
Richmond (5)	27	64	124	507,813	1,706,753
Atlanta (6)	39	19	90	319,345	180,998
Chicago (7)	110	115	249	1,991,769	1,768,587
St. Louis (8)	45	22	59	272,085	217,670
Minneapolis (9)	22	24	54	208,098	442,019
Kansas City (10)	39	32	92	393,874	851,327
Dallas (11)	30	18	63	334,699	165,927
San Francisco (12)	134	151	256	1,499,948	2,616,871
Total United States	1,027	977	1,909	\$15,669,627	\$22,560,835

### May, 1935

Districts	Manufacturing		Trading		Other Com'l	
	No.	Liabilities	No.	Liabilities	No.	Liabilities
First	30	\$844,061	70	\$641,087	14	\$189,856
Second	97	2,617,460	204	2,370,292	35	1,138,243
Third	13	309,913	30	590,471	..	..
Fourth	15	361,437	64	725,148	9	354,118
Fifth	4	194,656	21	241,013	2	72,144
Sixth	4	29,446	31	240,943	4	48,956
Seventh	35	1,004,433	65	730,147	10	167,189
Eighth	2	2,541	41	258,044	2	11,500
Ninth	6	122,036	14	72,972	2	13,000
Tenth	6	104,405	29	257,187	4	32,282
Eleventh	..	..	29	284,728	1	49,971
Twelfth	31	524,197	94	881,546	9	94,205
Total U. S.	243	\$6,204,585	692	\$7,293,578	92	\$2,171,464
May, 1934	246	\$9,673,606	632	\$9,537,933	99	\$3,350,196

in 1934 and the increase for May was a little more than that for April.

The comparison covering the record for the five years, 1925-1929, inclusive, is perhaps the most important one. For the first five months of those five years the Insolvency Index was 118.0; for the twelve months it was 105.6.

The records for these five years were only slightly above the average returns in many previous years.

The figures for the first five months of 1935 at 66.2, compared with 118.0 for the five-year average. The reduction this year was at the ratio of 43.9 per cent. For the first quarter of 1935 the per-

## Failures in Specified Cities in the United States—May

City	Fed. Res. Dist.	Pop.	Failures—May, 1935		May, 1934	
			No.	Liabilities	No.	Liabilities
Baltimore	5	804,874	6	\$91,200	16	\$373,404
Boston	1	781,188	18	266,573	21	344,845
Buffalo	2	573,076	7	66,441	6	526,066
Chicago	7	3,376,438	29	761,700	44	544,700
Cincinnati	4	451,160	7	142,090	6	138,712
Cleveland	4	900,429	14	519,488	8	108,341
Detroit	7	1,568,662	3	22,802	8	419,775
Indianapolis	7	364,161	5	233,000	2	13,500
Jersey City	2	316,716	2	43,000	5	138,844
Kansas City, Mo.	10	399,746	1	7,436	2	8,516
Los Angeles	12	1,238,048	22	330,294	38	499,226
Louisville	8	307,745	1	3,000	..	..
Milwaukee	7	578,248	11	106,071	12	274,673
Minneapolis	9	464,356	..	..	7	112,680
Newark	2	442,337	25	557,310	24	467,694
New Orleans	6	458,762	..	..	..	..
New York City	2	6,930,446	217	3,764,922	184	4,128,718
Philadelphia	3	1,950,961	12	125,594	12	549,400
Pittsburgh	4	669,817	6	24,200	6	1,530,900
Portland, Ore.	12	301,815	14	235,360	6	160,511
Rochester	2	328,132	2	24,765	3	13,460
St. Louis	8	821,960	14	75,193	3	13,566
San Francisco	12	634,394	14	161,531	14	179,406
Seattle	12	365,583	3	12,339	6	233,705
Washington, D. C.	5	486,869	5	23,131	9	105,017
Total	..	..	438	\$7,597,440	442	\$10,885,659
All Other	..	..	589	8,072,187	535	11,675,176
Total U. S.	..	..	1,027	\$15,669,627	977	\$22,560,835

centage of decline from the five-year average for the same period was 46.7 per cent, while for April and May, 1935, the reduction in the same comparison was 39.0 per cent. The slight tendency in the direction of an increase in failures so far this year is apparent from these comparisons.

#### Liability Groups

The analysis of the failure report for May shows that the reduction in liabilities for that month reflected the decline in the number of the larger failures. There were only 27 failures in May for which the liabilities in each instance amounted to over \$100,000. The total of the latter was \$4,491,791, an average for each failure of \$166,362. In May of last year, there were 45 similar defaults, for which the total indebtedness was \$10,519,016, an average for each of \$233,756.

Not only was there a reduction last month in the number of larger failures, but the same thing was

#### Failures by Branches of Business—May, 1935

	Number			Liabilities	
	May, 1935	May, 1934	May, 1933	May, 1935	May, 1934
<b>MANUFACTURERS</b>					
Iron, Steel and Foundries.....	9	11	28	\$427,681	\$1,175,181
Machinery and Tools.....	18	15	33	399,127	158,541
Woolens, Carpets, etc.....	1	..	3	5,000	.....
Cottons and Lace.....	..	..	1	.....	.....
Lumber and Building Lines.....	28	26	59	843,752	1,579,291
Clothing and Furnishings.....	22	13	29	259,627	682,220
Hats, Gloves and Furs.....	14	14	12	223,824	268,342
Chemicals and Drugs.....	9	7	17	162,200	62,000
Paints.....	..	..	..	.....	.....
Printing and Publishing.....	10	10	38	204,750	139,840
Milling and Bakers.....	16	27	39	259,698	224,020
Leather and Shoes.....	11	7	17	140,801	177,619
Tobacco.....	5	5	9	123,397	107,500
Stone, Clay and Glass.....	7	10	24	123,250	347,861
All Other.....	93	101	157	3,031,478	4,751,251
<b>Total Manufacturers.....</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>\$6,204,585</b>	<b>\$9,673,606</b>
<b>TRADERS</b>					
General Stores.....	25	24	61	\$165,243	\$174,928
Groceries, Meat and Fish.....	275	192	337	2,582,911	2,237,811
Hotels and Restaurants.....	49	49	79	777,445	1,572,994
Tobacco.....	6	9	15	77,244	63,995
Clothing and Furnishings.....	50	69	129	338,033	698,257
Dry Goods and Carpets.....	29	22	87	265,189	576,245
Shoes and Luggage.....	24	28	55	183,587	173,712
Furniture and Crockery.....	19	18	51	255,073	209,877
Hardware, Stoves and Tools.....	17	19	46	270,545	214,029
Chemicals and Drugs.....	76	61	115	698,351	717,661
Paints.....	4	3	4	20,303	20,800
Jewelry and Clocks.....	6	9	28	123,597	90,676
Books and Papers.....	13	11	20	243,533	80,394
Hats, Gloves and Furs.....	11	12	10	33,965	132,256
All Other.....	88	106	245	1,258,559	2,573,398
<b>Total Traders.....</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>1,282</b>	<b>\$7,293,578</b>	<b>\$9,537,633</b>
<b>Other Commercial.....</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>2,171,464</b>	<b>3,350,196</b>
<b>Total United States.....</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>\$15,669,627</b>	<b>\$22,560,835</b>

#### Analysis of Failures by Liability Groups for May

	Number				Liabilities			
	1935		1934		1935		1934	
	Ratio	Ratio	Ratio	Ratio	Total	Average	Total	Average
Under \$5,000.....	433	42.2	386	39.5	\$1,153,573	\$2,664	\$1,043,367	\$2,703
\$5,000 to \$25,000..	463	45.1	417	42.7	4,915,755	10,617	4,977,382	11,936
\$25,000 to \$100,000	104	10.1	129	13.2	5,108,508	49,120	6,021,070	46,675
Over \$100,000.....	27	2.6	45	4.6	4,491,791	166,362	10,519,016	233,756
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$15,669,627</b>	<b>\$15,258</b>	<b>\$22,560,835</b>	<b>\$23,092</b>

true as to the second class, where the amounts involved were from \$25,000 to \$100,000. For the larger group, the ratio to the total of all failures for the month just closed was only 2.6 per cent; for that month in 1934 the corresponding ratio was 4.6 per cent. For the second group, where the liabilities were from \$25,000 to \$100,000, the ratio to the total in May this year was 10.1 per cent, against 13.2 per cent in that month a year ago.

There are two other groups in this classification of failures by liability groups, and these are for the smaller amounts. In both instances these show a higher ratio this year. For the lowest, where the liabilities were under \$5,000, the ratio was 42.2 per cent

in May this year, against 39.5 per cent a year ago. For next to the lowest, the comparative figures are 45.1 per cent last month against 42.7 per cent last year.

The increase in business failures last month over May of last

#### Large and Small Failures—May

MANUFACTURING									
Total		\$100,000 & More		Under \$100,000					
	No.	Liabilities	No.	Liabilities	No.	Liabilities	Average		
1935....	243	\$6,204,585	14	\$2,464,201	229	\$3,740,384			\$16,334
1934....	246	9,673,606	22	5,886,675	224	3,786,931			16,906
1933....	466	19,020,791	49	12,082,413	417	6,938,378			16,639
1932....	672	30,077,030	59	17,345,482	613	12,731,548			20,769
1931....	552	18,606,051	32	10,686,711	520	7,919,340			15,230
1930....	501	23,133,319	43	15,589,417	458	7,543,902			16,471
1929....	515	18,953,812	33	12,159,167	482	6,794,645			14,097
TRADING									
1935....	692	\$7,293,578	8	\$1,190,911	684	\$6,102,667			\$8,922
1934....	632	9,537,033	12	3,185,298	620	6,351,735			10,245
1933....	1,282	20,877,074	38	6,776,138	1,244	14,100,936			11,335
1932....	1,987	35,586,225	61	13,948,951	1,926	21,637,274			11,234
1931....	1,570	25,069,472	26	9,065,207	1,544	16,004,265			10,365
1930....	1,530	21,285,493	27	5,730,620	1,503	15,554,873			10,349
1929....	1,266	18,191,399	28	5,517,477	1,238	12,673,922			10,237
ALL COMMERCIAL									
1935....	1,027	\$15,669,627	27	\$4,491,791	1,000	\$11,177,836			\$11,178
1934....	977	22,560,835	45	10,519,016	932	12,041,819			12,920
1933....	1,909	47,971,573	114	23,921,370	1,795	24,050,203			13,393
1932....	2,788	83,763,521	136	46,706,153	2,652	37,057,368			13,973
1931....	2,248	53,371,212	69	27,608,542	2,179	25,763,670			11,824
1930....	2,179	55,541,462	83	30,328,445	2,096	25,213,017			12,029
1929....	1,897	41,215,865	72	20,065,962	1,825	21,149,903			11,589

# Failures by Divisions of Industry—May, 1935

	Number		Liabilities	
	May, 1935	May, 1934	May, 1935	May, 1934
<b>MANUFACTURERS</b>				
Foods .....	16	17	\$396,212	\$396,289
Milling and Bakers .....	16	27	259,698	224,020
Chemicals and Drugs .....	9	7	162,200	62,000
Clothing and Furnishings .....	23	13	264,627	682,220
Textiles (Other) .....	21	21	985,766	1,373,186
Hats, Gloves and Furs .....	14	14	223,824	268,342
Leather and Shoes .....	11	7	140,801	177,619
Paints .....	..	..	..	..
Rubber Goods .....	1	..	6,500	..
Tobacco and Beverages .....	5	5	123,397	107,500
Furniture .....	4	4	60,656	227,940
Lumber and Building Lines .....	24	22	783,096	1,351,351
Machinery .....	8	4	337,288	35,941
Transportation Equipment .....	10	11	61,839	122,600
Iron and Steel .....	20	29	557,431	1,543,992
Non-Ferrous Metals .....	11	14	141,008	545,256
Petroleum and Coal .....	1	1	12,000	4,573
Printing and Publishing .....	10	10	204,750	139,840
Paper and Paper Products .....	4	..	509,314	..
Stone, Clay and Glass .....	7	10	123,250	347,801
All Other .....	28	30	850,928	1,463,136
<b>Total Manufacturers .....</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>\$6,204,585</b>	<b>\$9,673,606</b>
<b>RETAIL DEALERS</b>				
General Stores .....	25	24	\$165,243	\$174,928
Groceries, Meat and Fish .....	231	157	1,776,689	1,037,006
Clothing and Furnishings .....	48	68	324,033	687,257
Dry Goods and Department Stores .....	24	19	207,189	550,745
Hats, Gloves and Furs .....	11	12	33,965	132,256
Leather and Shoes .....	22	26	176,587	140,412
Furniture .....	16	15	238,073	177,390
Lumber and Building Materials .....	12	4	287,416	76,068
Chemicals and Drugs .....	72	60	554,406	708,039
Paints .....	4	2	20,302	11,800
Tobacco, Billiards and Beverages .....	6	9	77,244	63,995
Paper and Paper Products .....	6	6	185,179	40,151
Books and Periodicals .....	4	1	32,889	4,743
Rubber Goods .....	3	3	16,790	37,001
Jewelry .....	6	9	123,597	90,676
Machinery .....	10	7	189,225	31,939
Non-Ferrous Metals .....	..	..	..	..
Hardware and Tools .....	16	17	220,545	192,814
Iron and Steel .....	1	3	11,000	39,584
Hotels and Restaurants .....	49	49	777,445	1,572,994
Petroleum and Coal .....	19	15	127,891	430,511
Stone, Clay and Glass .....	2	4	7,775	685,226
Transportation Equipment .....	11	17	221,006	180,647
All Other .....	28	23	407,850	578,852
<b>Total Retail Dealers .....</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>\$6,182,340</b>	<b>\$7,645,034</b>
<b>WHOLESALE DEALERS</b>				
Books and Periodicals .....	..	1	..	\$4,000
Chemicals and Drugs .....	4	1	\$143,945	9,622
Furniture .....	..	..	..	..
Lumber and Building Materials .....	1	3	9,664	38,884
Groceries, Meat and Fish .....	44	35	806,222	1,200,805
Iron and Steel .....	1	4	19,486	13,515
Leather and Shoes .....	2	2	7,000	33,300
Machinery .....	..	1	..	30,513
Non-Ferrous Metals .....	1	2	3,000	53,339
Paints .....	..	1	..	9,000
Paper and Paper Products .....	3	3	25,465	31,500
Petroleum and Coal .....	2	10	20,956	164,597
Rubber Goods .....	1	..	3,500	..
Stone, Clay and Glass .....	..	..	..	..
Clothing and Furnishings .....	2	1	14,000	11,000
Dry Goods .....	5	3	58,000	25,500
Transportation Equipment .....	..	2	..	11,900
All Other .....	..	13	..	254,524
<b>Total Wholesale Dealers .....</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>\$1,111,238</b>	<b>\$1,891,999</b>
<b>AGENTS AND COMMERCIAL SERVICE</b>				
Advertising .....	4	5	\$104,103	\$58,599
Brokers (Investment) .....	4	1	308,554	33,755
Cleaners .....	9	2	55,339	65,500
Garages .....	6	10	100,325	47,645
Hauling .....	17	13	150,673	438,140
Insurance and Real Estate .....	17	31	944,080	1,617,697
Laundries .....	6	7	77,455	126,814
Taxicab Companies .....	..	..	..	..
Undertakers .....	8	6	136,073	239,030
All Other .....	21	24	294,862	723,016
<b>Total Agents &amp; Commercial Ser. .....</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>\$2,171,464</b>	<b>\$3,350,196</b>
<b>Total United States .....</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>\$15,669,627</b>	<b>\$22,560,835</b>

year was largely in the East. Separating the report by Federal Reserve Districts, there were eight of the twelve districts where an increase appeared and only four where the number was less this year than it was a year ago.

## Geographical Divisions

There were four districts which in the main comprise the Eastern section of the country. In all four of these districts the number of defaults last month was larger this year than last. The increase was relatively higher in the New England States than in the other three divisions. In the New York Federal Reserve District, the number of defaults was slightly higher this year; also in the Philadelphia and Cleveland Districts. Liabilities in the New England section showed some increase, but for the other three Federal Reserve Districts the amounts were less this year than last.

	May, 1935		
	Number	Ratio	Liabilities
Manufacturers .....	243	23.6	\$6,204,585
Traders:			
Retail .....	626	61.0	6,182,340
Wholesale .....	66	6.4	1,111,238
Agents & Com'l Ser. ....	92	9.0	2,171,464
<b>Total U. S. ....</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$15,669,627</b>
	May, 1934		
	Number	Ratio	Liabilities
Manufacturers .....	246	25.2	\$9,673,606
Traders:			
Retail .....	550	56.3	7,645,034
Wholesale .....	82	8.4	1,891,999
Agents & Com'l Ser. ....	99	10.1	3,350,196
<b>Total U. S. ....</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$22,560,835</b>
	May, 1933		
	Number	Ratio	Liabilities
Manufacturers .....	466	24.3	\$19,020,791
Traders:			
Retail .....	1,152	61.0	15,841,976
Wholesale .....	130	6.3	5,035,098
Agents & Com'l Ser. ....	161	8.4	8,073,708
<b>Total U. S. ....</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$47,971,573</b>

Outside of the Eastern section of the United States, the increase in the number of failures was largely in the South. The four Federal Reserve Districts where defaults also were more numerous this year than last, were the Atlanta, the St. Louis, Kansas City and Dallas Districts. The number was higher in the two first mentioned and the liabilities also were higher in these two districts,

as well as for the Dallas District.

There were fewer failures last month in most parts of the West and for the Pacific Coast States than in May last year. For the Chicago and Minneapolis Districts, a slight reduction in the number of defaults was shown last month, although for the Chicago District, liabilities were higher. For the San Francisco District, however, the reduction in number of defaults was accompanied by a considerable reduction in the amount of liabilities.

#### Branches of Business

Failures were more numerous in May this year in the large trading division than they were a year ago. The increase in that particular class was larger than the total increase for the month, as compared with the same month last year. For the other two divisions, manufacturing and other commercial classes, the number of defaults was less this year.

For the month just closed, the records show 692 failures in the trading class, with liabilities of \$7,293,578. A year ago the corresponding figures were 632 in number, with \$9,537,033 of indebtedness. This year the trading defaults constituted 67.4 per cent of all failures in the United States for that month. A year ago the ratio of trading failures was slightly below that shown for this year.

There were 243 failures of manufacturing concerns last month, owing \$6,204,585. These figures compared with 246 similar defaults in May last year involving \$9,673,606. For the third division, mainly agents and brokers, the number of defaults in May was 92, owing \$2,171,464, compared with 99 a year ago, for \$3,350,196 of indebtedness.

In the accompanying table, showing failures by branches of business, trading failures are separated as to retail and wholesale lines. Retail failures last month showed quite a large increase over a year ago, while in the wholesale division there was a reduc-

#### Analysis of Failures by States—May, 1935

	Number		Liabilities	
	May, 1935	May, 1934	May, 1935	May, 1934
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>				
Maine .....	15	4	\$82,210	\$28,115
New Hampshire.....	5	3	83,640	29,858
Vermont .....	3	2	39,618	73,206
Massachusetts .....	65	67	1,258,493	1,112,300
Connecticut .....	22	13	193,734	113,797
Rhode Island.....	9	12	43,858	44,863
Total .....	119	101	\$1,701,553	\$1,402,139
<b>MIDDLE ATLANTIC</b>				
New York .....	264	251	\$4,297,164	\$6,372,859
New Jersey .....	72	75	1,839,638	1,959,844
Pennsylvania .....	66	53	1,030,440	3,311,231
Total .....	402	379	\$7,167,242	\$11,643,934
<b>SOUTH ATLANTIC</b>				
Maryland .....	6	18	\$91,200	\$454,025
Delaware .....	..	1	..	29,726
District of Columbia.....	5	9	23,131	105,017
Virginia .....	5	16	100,357	78,982
West Virginia.....	4	14	182,224	294,704
North Carolina.....	9	9	114,151	887,125
South Carolina.....	..	..	..	..
Georgia .....	16	2	155,480	20,734
Florida .....	5	3	35,468	29,864
Total .....	50	72	\$702,011	\$1,900,177
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>				
Kentucky .....	14	6	\$275,503	\$59,668
Tennessee .....	12	9	137,557	157,746
Alabama .....	8	5	35,589	17,826
Mississippi .....	3	2	22,484	14,442
Arkansas .....	7	6	26,389	45,272
Oklahoma .....	11	8	115,817	329,870
Louisiana .....	1	..	9,940	..
Texas .....	27	17	317,338	144,127
Total .....	83	53	\$940,617	\$768,951
<b>CENTRAL EAST</b>				
Ohio .....	50	45	\$1,029,828	\$1,376,994
Indiana .....	12	17	341,100	211,539
Illinois .....	56	62	1,139,810	722,643
Michigan .....	15	17	248,671	495,955
Wisconsin .....	26	20	258,002	348,545
Total .....	159	161	\$3,017,411	\$3,155,676
<b>CENTRAL WEST</b>				
Minnesota .....	10	14	\$81,104	\$388,408
Iowa .....	15	8	80,904	73,683
Missouri .....	21	10	117,477	116,643
North Dakota.....	1	1	800	5,312
South Dakota.....	2	1	81,886	1,600
Nebraska .....	7	8	27,142	291,836
Kansas .....	4	3	28,929	45,441
Total .....	60	45	\$418,242	\$922,923
<b>WESTERN</b>				
Montana .....	4	4	\$15,900	\$12,700
Idaho .....	2	2	4,000	4,600
Wyoming .....	1	..	25,458	..
Colorado .....	14	9	177,745	127,234
New Mexico.....	1	2	3,500	10,230
Arizona .....	..	..	..	..
Utah .....	4	6	6,650	19,850
Nevada .....	..	1	..	4,500
Total .....	26	24	\$233,253	\$179,114
<b>PACIFIC</b>				
Washington .....	20	15	\$322,761	\$317,864
Oregon .....	24	18	304,205	236,690
California .....	84	109	862,332	2,033,367
Total .....	128	142	\$1,489,298	\$2,587,921
<b>UNITED STATES</b>				
Total .....	1,027	977	\$15,669,627	\$22,560,835

tion in the number and liabilities reported.

### Failures in June

There was a slight increase in the number of failures in the first week of June. The number was 238. These figures compared with 226 and 234, respectively for the two preceding weeks, and with 226 and 234, respectively, for the last year and two years ago. An increase appeared in the number of failures over last year's total in the East and the South.

Insolvencies with liabilities of \$5,000 and over in each instance numbered 111 for the latest week against 133 such defaults in the week previous and 141 a year ago.

The weekly record of business failures in the United States, with figures for the corresponding weeks in both preceding years, is given below:

	1935	1934	Per Cent	1933
June 6.....	238	239	- 0.4	401
May 30.....	226	216	+ 4.6	378
May 23.....	234	225	+ 4.0	459
May 16.....	219	212	+ 3.3	429
May 9.....	218	222	- 1.8	437
May 2.....	244	246	- 0.8	460
Apr. 25.....	249	262	- 5.0	452
Apr. 18.....	253	265	- 4.5	447
Apr. 11.....	271	251	+ 8.0	439
Apr. 4.....	251	226	+11.1	418
Mar. (av. 4 wks.)	230	244	- 5.7	426
Feb. (av. 4 wks.)	251	260	- 3.5	580
Jan. (av. 5 wks.)	266	306	-13.1	675

Retail defaults rose to 156, against 130 a week earlier. In the manufacturing, wholesale and other commercial classifications, the number was lowered.

When analyzed by geographical divisions, increases were shown for Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, Central West, Western and Pacific. Declines were registered for New England, South Central, and Central East.

### Weekly Insolvency Analysis

By Trade Groups and Geographical Divisions

Trade Groups:	1935			1934	
	Week	Five Days	Week	Week	Week
	June 6	May 30	June 7		
Retail .....	156	130	145		
Wholesale .....	18	26	14		
Manufacturing .....	51	56	58		
Other Commercial...	13	14	22		
Total U. S. ....	238	226	239		
Geographical Divisions:					
New England .....	23	26	18		
Middle Atlantic .....	99	95	95		
South Atlantic .....	13	11	12		
South Central .....	15	19	16		
Central East .....	40	41	41		
Central West .....	12	11	15		
Western .....	5	3	6		
Pacific .....	26	20	36		
Total U. S. ....	238	226	239		

### New Bankruptcy Act Cases

Section 77B of the New Bankruptcy Act became effective June 7, 1934.

Since that date a separate record has been kept of 77B applications, as concerns applying under this section are not commercial failures in the accepted sense.

This table shows the monthly totals of concerns making application since Section 77B became effective, in comparison with the

commercial failure total in the same months.

	Number of Applications	Commercial Failures
1934		
June .....	97	1,033
July .....	73	912
August .....	98	929
September .....	69	790
October .....	65	1,091
November .....	96	923
December .....	94	963
1935		
January .....	106	1,184
February .....	76	1,005
March .....	82	976
April .....	146	1,115
May .....	88	1,027
Total .....	1,090	11,948

The total of 77B applications to date has been 9.1 per cent of the commercial failure total.

Liability figures are not available on the 77B cases pending final settlements. The applicants, on the whole, are larger than average concerns. From this fact it is evident that these cases represent higher liabilities than those of the average commercial failure.

After June 7, 1935, the statistics of applications under Section 77B will show comparisons of the current totals with those of the corresponding periods of 1934.

### Analysis of Canadian Failures by Liability Groups—1st Quarter, 1935

Group:	January		Manufacturing	Retail	Wholesale	Other Comm'l.
	No.	Liabilities	No.	No.	No.	No.
Under \$5,000.....	86	\$156,810	20	56	1	9
\$5,000 to \$25,000.....	58	665,271	20	33	2	3
\$25,000 to \$100,000.....	8	279,919	2	3	1	2
Over \$100,000.....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total .....	152	\$1,102,000	42	92	4	14
February						
Under \$5,000.....	88	\$175,513	10	68	1	9
\$5,000 to \$25,000.....	46	488,116	19	16	4	7
\$25,000 to \$100,000.....	9	394,192	2	3	2	2
Over \$100,000.....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total .....	143	\$1,057,821	31	87	7	18
March						
Under \$5,000.....	72	\$138,156	11	54	1	6
\$5,000 to \$25,000.....	31	313,552	7	18	2	4
\$25,000 to \$100,000.....	13	578,629	6	2	2	3
Over \$100,000.....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total .....	116	\$1,030,337	24	74	5	13
Total 1st Quarter....	411	\$3,190,158	97	253	16	45

### Analysis of Canadian Failures by Provinces—First Quarter, 1935

PROVINCES	—ALL COMMERCIAL, 1935—			—Total, 1934—	—CLASSIFIED FAILURES—								
	No.	Assets	Liabilities		—Manufacturing—		—Retail—		—Wholesale—		—Other Comm'l—		
	No.	Assets	Liabilities	No.	Liabilities	No.	Liabilities	No.	Liabilities	No.	Liabilities	No.	Liabilities
Ontario .....	132	\$595,493	\$845,211	141	\$1,484,308	38	\$339,164	77	\$420,021	3	\$53,914	14	\$33,112
Quebec .....	184	1,045,806	1,601,095	191	2,706,411	46	492,824	107	667,670	9	108,757	22	331,844
British Columbia..	7	6,943	12,979	27	252,797	1	2,443	5	9,162	..	..	1	1,384
Nova Scotia.....	14	48,699	125,909	17	124,949	1	2,000	9	49,974	1	17,500	3	56,435
Newfoundland ....	3	1,875	14,808	7	90,858	1	4,455	2	10,353	..	..	..	..
Manitoba .....	28	200,884	354,297	46	296,573	7	155,699	17	59,009	2	87,693	2	51,895
New Brunswick....	8	19,233	29,509	11	94,158	..	.....	8	29,509	..	.....	..	.....
Prince Edward Is..	5	8,382	29,708	2	10,535	1	1,000	4	28,708	..	.....	..	.....
Alberta .....	20	94,593	139,908	18	156,917	2	2,000	15	70,897	1	44,811	2	17,200
Saskatchewan ....	10	25,485	36,734	7	84,035	..	.....	9	34,734	..	.....	1	2,000
Total, 1935...	411	\$2,047,393	\$3,190,158	467	\$5,301,541	97	\$999,585	253	\$1,380,037	16	\$312,675	45	\$493,870
Total, 1934...	467	\$3,042,400	\$5,301,541			101	\$1,258,687	319	\$2,439,797	16	\$390,654	31	\$1,212,403

# BANK CLEARINGS CONTINUED AT HIGHER LEVEL IN MAY

**B**ANK clearings in May this year were larger than those for April and again showed an increase in the comparison with the clearings reported a year ago. The total for the twenty-two leading cities in the United States was \$22,908,555,000, which compared with \$21,248,358,000 in May, 1934, and \$21,817,989,000 in April this year.

Clearings so far this year have shown a generally higher tendency. With only one exception, they have been in excess of every month last year. The only month in which there was a reduction was April. Average daily bank clearings in that month this year were below those for April, 1934. Clearings for April, 1934, were at the high point for that year. There was an increase in May this year over April, whereas a year ago the reverse was the case, the reduction in those two months being quite sharp.

Clearings for the week covering the early part of June were for

## Daily Average Bank Clearings

	1935	1934	Per Cent
May . . . .	\$881,098,000	\$817,264,000	+ 7.8
April . . . .	877,230,000	908,558,000	- 3.4
Mar. . . . .	940,785,000	811,905,000	+15.9
Feb. . . . .	868,477,000	865,128,000	+ 0.4
Jan. . . . .	907,278,000	760,338,000	+18.0
	1934	1933	
Dec. . . . .	868,144,000	745,351,000	+16.5
Nov. . . . .	739,992,000	761,474,000	- 2.8
Oct. . . . .	753,307,000	778,720,000	- 3.3
Sept. . . . .	743,202,000	730,154,000	+ 1.8
Aug. . . . .	675,390,000	722,127,000	- 6.5
July . . . . .	795,762,000	919,421,000	-13.4
June . . . .	818,342,000	823,931,000	- 0.7

five days only. The total for the twenty-two leading cities in the United States was \$4,725,460,000. For the six days last year, clearings amounted to \$5,015,159,000, the reduction this year being 5.8 per cent. In the preceding week, when conditions were reversed, there was a gain of 34.5 per cent. For the two weeks, with the difference as to the number of days entirely eliminated, the increase this year was 10.8 per cent. This was substantially the same as has appeared in the earlier returns.

At New York City, clearings for

the five days were \$3,145,493,000, that amount being less by 7.4 per cent than the amount reported for six days a year ago, while the aggregate for centers outside of New York of \$1,579,967,000 revealed a decline of 2.4 per cent in the same comparison.

Figures at leading centers, compared with those of a year ago, are printed herewith:

	Five Days June 5, 1935	Week June 6, 1934	Per Cent Change
	000 omitted		
Boston . . . . .	\$179,203	\$200,390	- 10.6
Philadelphia . .	290,000	302,000	- 4.0
Buffalo . . . . .	23,700	28,700	- 17.4
Pittsburgh . . . .	101,171	97,942	+ 3.3
Cleveland . . . .	59,891	68,795	- 12.9
Cincinnati . . . .	43,511	48,548	- 10.4
Baltimore . . . . .	51,960	57,225	- 9.2
Richmond . . . . .	24,210	28,238	- 14.3
Atlanta . . . . .	30,900	28,900	+ 6.9
New Orleans . . . .	21,650	20,382	+ 6.2
Chicago . . . . .	231,300	240,000	- 3.6
Detroit . . . . .	80,834	77,245	+ 4.6
St. Louis . . . . .	79,200	65,200	+ 21.5
Louisville . . . . .	21,897	18,101	+ 21.0
Minneapolis . . . .	53,223	57,718	- 7.8
Kansas City . . . .	71,847	70,770	+ 1.4
Omaha . . . . .	25,420	27,321	- 7.0
Dallas . . . . .	29,698	30,500	- 2.6
San Francisco . . .	113,400	107,700	+ 5.3
Portland, Ore. . . .	21,026	20,632	+ 1.9
Seattle . . . . .	25,926	22,475	+ 15.4
Total . . . . .	\$1,579,967	\$1,618,782	- 2.4
New York . . . . .	3,145,493	3,396,377	- 7.4
Total All . . . . .	\$4,725,460	\$5,015,159	- 5.8

## WEEKLY BANK CLEARINGS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

	Week May 1, 1935	Per Cent	Week May 8, 1935	Per Cent	Week May 15, 1935	Per Cent	Week May 22, 1935	Per Cent	Week May 29, 1935	Per Cent
Boston . . . . .	\$239,000	+12.8	\$219,000	+18.6	\$194,226	-13.1	\$204,155	+11.4	\$187,449	+23.2
Philadelphia . . . .	326,000	+ 4.5	364,000	+24.7	309,000	- 1.0	354,000	+26.0	329,000	+39.4
Buffalo . . . . .	30,900	+11.6	27,300	+11.9	29,700	+ 4.0	30,800	+17.1	27,000	+32.4
Pittsburgh . . . . .	105,873	+12.0	97,819	+ 2.2	97,028	+ 9.5	93,683	+ 2.7	93,747	+25.3
Cleveland . . . . .	67,967	+ 7.8	64,729	+18.6	64,170	+ 2.2	70,547	+20.0	66,709	+38.6
Cincinnati . . . . .	48,358	+13.4	48,217	+22.4	46,796	+11.3	51,658	+21.5	43,944	+29.9
Baltimore . . . . .	57,399	+ 4.7	57,011	+ 5.4	57,469	- 0.3	57,388	+10.1	53,176	+31.1
Richmond . . . . .	28,602	+ 9.2	30,070	+16.6	29,040	+12.3	30,396	+ 7.4	28,271	+37.2
Atlanta . . . . .	35,400	+ 0.3	38,400	+ 5.5	39,500	+ 5.3	44,900	+13.1	35,000	+37.8
New Orleans . . . .	24,497	+ 6.4	24,013	+13.7	23,611	+13.4	25,719	+26.9	22,271	+39.9
Chicago . . . . .	256,300	+11.2	277,700	+24.4	255,100	+ 9.1	254,600	+16.8	234,300	+38.6
Detroit . . . . .	100,570	+15.2	82,599	+25.3	86,539	+13.3	91,927	+33.5	94,409	+41.7
St. Louis . . . . .	75,500	+11.2	73,500	+15.7	72,100	+ 2.1	82,800	+17.4	78,900	+47.2
Louisville . . . . .	24,740	+12.6	26,139	+25.0	25,718	+ 6.7	27,034	+24.0	22,827	+38.2
Minneapolis . . . . .	60,501	+17.3	86,116	+70.2	56,575	+11.6	58,915	+25.6	59,401	+54.9
Kansas City . . . . .	86,180	+23.6	86,504	+28.9	85,538	+29.5	90,887	+31.5	77,913	+45.1
Omaha . . . . .	28,939	+16.1	30,303	+21.6	31,020	+13.2	29,678	+17.9	26,507	+44.0
Dallas . . . . .	34,777	+14.5	33,689	+ 9.6	31,076	- 6.0	38,715	+15.4	32,108	+33.4
San Francisco . . . .	120,200	+ 3.6	118,100	+23.4	118,200	+11.3	133,000	+30.3	109,100	+53.7
Portland, Ore. . . . .	21,187	+12.3	22,257	+19.2	24,206	+11.5	26,584	+33.1	21,042	+46.1
Seattle . . . . .	27,053	+29.4	29,314	+35.5	33,731	+39.5	31,825	+43.7	28,296	+83.3
Total . . . . .	\$1,799,643	+10.4	\$1,836,780	+21.5	\$1,710,343	+ 4.8	\$1,829,211	+20.0	\$1,671,370	+38.2
New York . . . . .	4,211,571	+ 5.7	4,406,137	+20.8	3,013,025	-10.3	3,254,991	+16.1	3,018,420	+32.5
Total All . . . . .	\$6,011,214	+ 7.0	\$6,242,917	+21.1	\$4,723,368	- 5.3	\$5,084,202	+17.4	\$4,689,790	+34.5

Note—Clearings reported in millions and thousands (000 omitted throughout). Percentage shows increase or decrease compared with the figures of the same week in 1934.

# THE TREND OF PRICES

COMMODITY prices in May fluctuated, to a great extent, as the result of legislative developments at Washington and the Supreme Court decisions relative to the N.R.A. Hides, leather, wool, cotton goods and pork products showed exceptional strength. Raw cotton and dairy products declined during the month, while improved crop prospects affected grains, which fell to the lowest of the season.

## Dun & Bradstreet Index Higher

A further advance of 1.1 per cent in May, following a rise of 1.4 per cent in April, lifted the Dun & Bradstreet Monthly Commodity Price Index for June 1 to a new peak since November 1, 1930.

Group:	June 1, 1935	May 1, 1935	June 1, 1934
Breadstuffs.....	\$0.1067	\$0.1211	\$0.1107
Livestock.....	.3168	.3195	.2118
Provisions.....	2.8079	2.8008	2.2481
Fruits.....	.2041	.2068	.2565
Hides and Leather.....	.9825	.9275	.8250
Textiles.....	2.7264	2.6777	2.7348
Metals.....	.7735	.7671	.7798
Coal and Coke.....	.0107	.0107	.0110
Oils.....	.5313	.5279	.4858
Naval Stores.....	.1287	.1307	.1338
Building Materials.....	.1116	.1064	.1085
Chemicals and Drugs.....	.8478	.8478	.8476
Miscellaneous.....	.3590	.3525	.3870
Total All.....	\$9.9070	\$9.7965	\$9.1404

At \$9.9070 the latest figure exceeds that for the same date for each of the past four years, the in-

crease over last year being 8.4 per cent, while the gain over 1933 is equal to 23.5 per cent.

Price changes during May revealed 7 groups higher, 4 lower and 2 unchanged, while individual commodity changes showed 28 advances, 22 declines and 46 unchanged.

## Dun's Index Slightly Lower

Due chiefly to the decline in the quotations on grains, all of which fell below the level of the month previous, Dun's Index Number of Wholesale Commodity Prices on June 1 dropped to \$174.314. As the May 1 figure stood at \$176.231, the loss amounted to \$1.917, or 1.09 per cent, and made the second time this year that the position of the month previous was not reached. While the current index is higher by 1.07 per cent than the year's low at \$172.461 on April 1, the net gain since January 1, when it stood at \$173.075, has been reduced to 0.7 per cent.

	June 1, 1935	May 1, 1935	Apr. 1, 1935	June 1, 1934
Breadstuffs ..	\$26.121	\$28.953	\$27.105	\$23.274
Meat .....	23.068	22.615	21.295	14.276
Dairy & Garden ..	18.761	19.317	18.202	18.325
Other Food .....	17.288	17.288	17.295	16.421
Clothing .....	28.602	27.156	26.903	27.969
Metals .....	21.999	22.115	22.333	23.251
Miscellaneous ..	38.475	38.787	39.238	40.469
Total .....	\$174.314	\$176.231	\$172.461	\$163.985

## Food Index Shows Small Drop

There has been comparatively little movement in the Dun & Bradstreet Weekly Food Index during the past six weeks. For the period ended April 30 the index stood at \$2.62. Two declines of 1c. each at two-week intervals brought the figure for the week ended June 4 to \$2.60. This is the lowest level since January 1, when it stood at \$2.58, but it still is 21.5 per cent above the comparative figure for last year.

	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931
June 4.....	\$2.60	\$2.14	\$1.87	\$1.63	\$2.15
May 28.....	2.60	2.11	1.87	1.61	2.15
May 21.....	2.61	2.11	1.84	1.63	2.19
May 14.....	2.61	2.09	1.86	1.65	2.21
May 7.....	2.62	2.10	1.80	1.67	2.21

## Daily Index Trends Lower

Daily fluctuations in the Dun & Bradstreet Daily Weighted Price Index since January 1, 1935, are set forth in the following table:

	(1930-1932 = 100)				
	1935				
	May	April	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.
1....	122.00	119.84	122.57	122.24	Holiday
2....	121.25	120.40	122.23	122.08	121.03
3....	121.44	120.74	†....	†....	122.09
4....	121.30	120.97	121.61	121.84	122.58
5....	†....	121.08	121.52	121.85	123.01
6....	121.16	121.14	121.77	121.80	†....
7....	121.00	†....	121.48	122.20	123.82
8....	121.17	121.92	122.03	123.23	123.87
9....	121.50	122.36	121.40	123.40	124.23
10....	121.57	122.95	†....	†....	123.99
11....	120.98	123.19	119.87	123.08	123.41
12....	†....	123.32	119.34	Holiday	122.72
13....	120.23	123.76	119.51	123.28	†....
14....	120.52	†....	118.97	123.61	122.88
15....	120.74	123.24	118.62	123.92	121.50
16....	121.59	123.92	117.42	124.00	121.25
17....	121.54	123.25	†....	†....	121.78
18....	120.85	123.65	116.22	124.27	121.72
19....	†....	Holiday	116.83	122.81	122.77
20....	121.18	Holiday	117.33	122.83	†....
21....	121.18	†....	117.28	122.77	123.07
22....	121.20	123.61	118.09	Holiday	122.69
23....	121.38	122.94	117.76	122.09	122.29
24....	120.68	122.92	†....	†....	122.50
25....	120.13	122.70	118.29	122.11	122.33
26....	†....	123.20	118.65	122.16	122.37
27....	119.94	122.63	119.38	122.63	†....
28....	119.53	†....	119.28	122.21	121.86
29....	118.71	122.06	119.44	†....	121.47
30....	Holiday	121.79	120.02	†....	122.12
31....	117.84	†....	†....	†....	122.60

† Sunday

	High	Low
1935....	124.27 Feb. 18	116.22 Mar. 18
1934....	121.58 Dec. 31	101.05 Jan. 3
1933....	113.52 July 18	67.86 Jan. 20
1932....	84.41 Jan. 7	69.55 Dec. 24

THE DUN & BRADSTREET WEEKLY FOOD INDEX



While remaining comparatively steady during the past six weeks, the Weekly Food Index has dropped to the lowest level since January 1, 1935. The index for June 4 stood at \$2.60, as compared with \$2.62 a month ago, a decline of 0.8 per cent, while the loss from the February 12 high of \$2.76 amounts to 5.8 per cent.

# STATISTICAL RECORD OF

## VISIBLE GRAIN SUPPLIES

Returns to DUN & BRADSTREET, INC., of available wheat stocks held on June 1, 1935, in the United States and Canada, leading parts of the United Kingdom and Europe, and the supply on passage for the United Kingdom, also the stocks of corn and oats held in the United States and Canada, with comparisons, are as follows, figures being in bushels:

Wheat	June 1, 1935	Change from Last Week	June 2, 1935
United States, east of Rocky Mountains.....	31,607,000	— 1,243,000	77,631,000
United States, west of Rocky Mountains.....	3,034,000	— 154,000	4,959,000
Canada.....	199,926,000	— 1,827,000	196,869,000
Total, United States and Canada.....	234,567,000	— 3,224,000	279,459,000
United Kingdom and Afloat (Broomhall).....	46,800,000	+ 1,800,000	45,100,000
Total, American, United Kingdom and Afloat.....	281,367,000	— 1,424,000	324,559,000
Continent { Marseilles } (Broomhall).....	3,100,000	— 900,000	6,100,000
Total, American and European Supply.....	284,467,000	— 2,324,000	330,659,000
Corn—United States and Canada.....	12,041,000	— 231,000	46,808,000
Oats—United States and Canada.....	17,608,000	— 845,000	36,525,000

The combined aggregate wheat visible supply statistics, in bushels, follow. (Last three 000 omitted):

Week ending	U. S. east of Rockies	U. S. Pacific Coast	Total U. S.	Canada	Total U. S. and Canada	U. K. and Afloat	Total American and European	Continent	Total America and Europe
Mar. 2.....	62,769	4,646	67,415	235,515	302,930	46,500	349,430	6,800	356,230
Mar. 9.....	59,677	4,736	64,413	234,307	299,220	44,900	344,120	5,900	350,020
Mar. 16.....	57,331	4,643	61,974	232,230	294,204	43,900	338,104	5,200	343,304
Mar. 23.....	55,409	4,619	60,028	229,215	289,243	41,700	330,943	4,800	335,743
Mar. 30.....	52,735	3,990	56,725	227,259	283,924	41,500	325,484	5,200	330,684
Apr. 6.....	50,542	3,934	54,476	226,029	280,505	44,100	324,605	4,800	329,205
Apr. 13.....	47,822	3,824	51,646	224,360	276,006	44,400	320,406	4,200	324,606
Apr. 20.....	45,269	3,788	49,057	220,256	269,313	44,200	313,513	4,200	317,713
Apr. 27.....	42,832	3,952	46,784	216,181	262,965	43,200	306,165	4,500	310,665
May 4.....	40,452	3,955	44,407	213,514	257,921	40,900	298,821	4,300	303,121
May 11.....	37,854	3,568	41,422	210,163	251,585	43,100	294,685	4,100	298,785
May 18.....	34,768	3,698	38,466	206,833	245,299	44,000	289,299	4,200	293,499
May 25.....	32,850	3,188	36,038	201,733	237,771	45,000	282,771	4,000	286,771
June 1.....	31,607	3,034	34,641	199,926	234,567	46,800	281,367	3,100	284,467

## Corn Exports

(By telegraph to Dun & Bradstreet, Inc.)

Corn exports in bushels from leading United States and Canadian ports compare as follows:

Week ending	1935	1934	1933
Feb. 2.....	7,000	12,000	274,000
Feb. 9.....	2,000	33,000	8,000
Feb. 16.....	1,000	15,000	814,000
Feb. 23.....	5,000	15,000	24,000
Mar. 2.....	5,000	9,000	157,000
Mar. 9.....	49,000	115,000	53,000
Mar. 16.....	40,000	53,000	90,000
Mar. 23.....	10,000	38,000	8,000
Mar. 30.....	1,000	10,000	4,000
Apr. 6.....	19,000	1,000	6,000
Apr. 13.....	6,000	27,000	6,000
Apr. 20.....	11,000	6,000	8,000
Apr. 27.....	5,000	8,000	1,000
May 4.....	3,000	2,000	1,000
May 11.....	3,000	2,000	1,000
May 18.....	1,000	2,000	1,000
May 25.....	2,000	1,000	1,000
June 1.....	2,000	1,000	1,000

July 1 to date... 28,000 692,000 4,936,742

## Wheat and Flour Exports

(By telegraph to Dun & Bradstreet, Inc.)

The quantity of wheat (including flour as wheat) exported from leading United States and Canadian ports for the week and season compare as follows, in bushels:

Week ending	1935	1934	1933
Feb. 2.....	2,909,021	4,518,725	5,477,033
Feb. 9.....	2,035,497	3,165,078	5,247,990
Feb. 16.....	1,872,675	3,622,380	4,660,520
Feb. 23.....	3,229,615	3,122,133	3,626,024
Mar. 2.....	1,921,906	4,451,617	4,228,376
Mar. 9.....	1,925,088	2,834,119	3,934,057
Mar. 16.....	2,936,566	3,780,985	3,252,595
Mar. 23.....	2,255,264	3,312,065	3,849,394
Mar. 30.....	2,139,971	2,643,287	2,491,520
Apr. 6.....	2,314,734	3,426,419	2,891,651
Apr. 13.....	2,798,928	4,673,594	3,690,539
Apr. 20.....	2,364,673	2,817,302	2,343,174
Apr. 27.....	2,986,899	3,256,079	4,675,488
May 4.....	1,748,176	4,387,897	5,397,016
May 11.....	3,289,049	3,924,310	3,569,009
May 18.....	3,802,886	6,214,939	6,804,693
May 25.....	3,895,495	3,188,825	5,314,386
June 1.....	3,878,583	3,319,231	4,338,194

July 1 to date... 141,380,335 189,752,822 261,093,775

## U. S. Grain East of Rocky Mountains

Stocks of grain available in the United States June 1, 1935, in bushels, were as follows, with comparisons:

(Last three 000 omitted)	Wheat	Corn	Oats	Barley
United States				
Minneapolis.....	4,318	1,832	2,932	2,674
Duluth.....	2,920	265	1,445	896
Sioux City, Iowa.....	89	112	18	3
Millwaukee.....	615	40	241	1,461
Omaha and Council Bluffs.....	1,420	1,276	101	.....
Hutchinson.....	566	.....	.....	.....
Lincoln, Neb.....	320	20	.....	.....
Wichita.....	87	14	94	.....
Kansas City.....	8,495	373	685	7
St. Joseph.....	434	265	107	.....
Chicago.....	3,871	4,116	2,954	836
Afloat.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Manitowoc.....	.....	1,085	.....	.....
Peoria.....	2	2	.....	.....
Indianapolis.....	325	453	45	.....
St. Louis.....	1,171	71	200	14
Louisville.....	188	101	1	1
Chattanooga.....	48	145	.....	.....
Nashville.....	200	150	146	.....
New Orleans.....	83	314	402	22
Houston.....	480	31	18	.....
Galveston.....	495	.....	.....	.....
Fort Worth, Tex.....	714	306	107	14
Dallas, Tex.....	374	.....	.....	.....
On Lakes.....	.....	64	39	21
On Canal.....	130	4	5	40
Detroit.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erie, Pa.....	96	.....	.....	.....
Cleveland.....	.....	20	50	.....
Mansfield.....	6	5	4	3
Dartmouth.....	84	41	59	.....
Cincinnati.....	3,274	713	502	807
Buffalo.....	435	.....	.....	.....
Afloat.....	10	7	81	19
Boston.....	2	21	15	2
Providence, R. I.....	127	101	364	12
New York.....	.....	20	84	7
Afloat.....	168	9	87	1
Baltimore.....	16	5	.....	.....
Newport News.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Norfolk.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

June 1, 1935.....	31,607	12,041	10,786	6,845
May 25, 1935.....	32,850	12,272	10,871	7,091
June 2, 1934.....	77,631	46,808	26,205	9,301

## Canadian Grain Stocks

The available grain stocks in Canada June 1, 1935, follow, with comparisons:

(Last three 000 omitted)	Wheat	Corn	Oats	Barley
Montreal.....	5,779	.....	296	404
Churchill.....	2,389	.....	.....	.....
Country Elevators.....	74,814	.....	2,439	1,165
Int. Term. Elevators.....	1,327	.....	263	75
Int. Elevators & Mfgs.....	6,537	.....	801	1,385
Elevators.....	72,059	.....	1,926	2,138
Ft. William and Pt. Arthur.....	618	.....	.....	245
Canadian Afloat.....	8,154	.....	125	124
Vancouver.....	80	.....	.....	.....
Prince Rupert.....	7,120	.....	.....	263
Bonded grain in the United States.....	21,099	.....	972	182
Other Canadian.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

June 1, 1935.....	199,926	6,822	5,981
May 25, 1935.....	201,753	7,587	6,892
June 2, 1934.....	196,869	10,320	9,281

The Montreal, Fort William and Port Arthur and bonded grain totals are furnished by the New York Produce Exchange and Chicago Board of Trade. The other Canadian totals are telegraphed to DUN & BRADSTREET, INC., by the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics of Ottawa.

## Pacific Coast Wheat Stocks

	June 1, 1935	May 25, 1935
Portland, Ore.....	1,670,000	1,752,000
Tacoma, Wash.....	451,000	485,000
Seattle, Wash.....	913,000	951,000
Total .....	<u>3,034,000</u>	<u>3,188,000</u>

# COMMERCE AND FINANCE

## FINANCIAL STATISTICS

	May, 1935	May, 1934	Ch'ge P. Ct.	Apr., 1935	Ch'ge P. Ct.
Bank clearings, N. Y.					
City (\$)	15,173,517	14,458,915+	4.9	15,465,200—	1.9
Bank debits, N. Y.					
City (\$)	14,551,143	14,653,612—	0.7	15,904,700—	8.5
Bank debits, U. S. (\$)	30,206,331	28,757,393+	5.0	31,450,943—	4.6
Bank sales, N. Y. (\$)	84,114,661	81,809,451+	2.8	155,945,038—	46.1
Bank sales, N. Y. Curb					
Exchange (\$)	118,714,000	522,449,000—	77.3	108,278,000+	9.6
Bank sales, N. Y. Stock					
Exchange (\$)	285,404,900	284,742,800+	0.2	267,544,100+	6.7
Corporate issues (\$)	160,957,300	34,406,250+	367.8	277,124,000—	41.9
Failures, number	1,927	977+	5.1	1,115—	7.9
Stock sales, N. Y. Curb					
Exchange (shares)	6,392,593	20,527,870—	68.9	4,389,568+	45.6
Stock sales, N. Y. Stock					
Exchange (shares)	30,438,423	25,348,000+	20.1	22,408,195+	35.8
	Apr., 1935	Apr., 1934	Ch'ge P. Ct.	Mar., 1935	Ch'ge P. Ct.
Automobile financing, re-					
tail (\$)	113,017,908	87,998,227+	28.4	95,184,296+	18.7
Auto. financing, whole-					
sale (\$)	159,901,306	121,060,525+	32.1	145,574,233+	9.8
Fire losses (\$)	23,267,929	22,028,943+	5.6	24,942,703—	6.7
Foreign Trade, U. S.					
Exports (\$)	164,350,000	179,427,000—	8.4	184,603,000—	11.9
Imports (\$)	170,567,000	146,523,000+	16.4	177,275,000—	3.8
Life insurance, sales (\$)	733,870,000	794,495,000—	7.6	768,491,000—	4.5
Ry. earnings, gross (\$)	274,651,964	265,405,934+	3.5	280,898,558—	2.2
Ry. earnings net oper.					
income (\$)	34,625,786	32,433,939+	6.8	37,850,965—	8.5

\* Three cyphers omitted. † Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. ‡ Journal of Commerce.

## PRODUCTION

	May, 1935	May, 1934	Ch'ge P. Ct.	Apr., 1935	Ch'ge P. Ct.
Building* (215 cities) (\$)	49,322,110	43,825,268+	12.5	51,717,570+	4.6
Coal, anthracite (tons)	4,930,000	5,250,000—	6.1	4,806,000—	2.6
Coal, bituminous (tons)	26,790,000	27,385,000—	2.2	21,920,000+	22.2
Flour (bbls.)	4,975,434	5,160,516—	3.6	4,981,407—	0.1
Pig iron (tons)	1,727,095	2,042,896—	15.4	1,663,475+	3.8
Steel ingot (tons)	2,602,054	3,352,788—	22.4	2,606,311—	0.2
Zinc (tons)	34,597	30,944+	11.8	35,334—	2.1
	Apr., 1935	Apr., 1934	Ch'ge P. Ct.	Mar., 1935	Ch'ge P. Ct.
Automobile (cars and					
trucks)	477,716	352,975+	35.3	429,834+	11.1
Boots and shoes (pairs)	33,134,830	34,424,897—	3.7	33,584,404—	1.3
Babbitt metal (lbs.)	2,296,472	2,527,677—	9.1	2,280,960+	0.7
Cement (bbls.)	6,136,000	6,544,000—	6.2	4,299,000+	42.7
Coke (tons)	2,736,723	2,947,051—	7.2	3,012,692—	0.2
Const. contracts awarded					
(37 States) †† (\$)	124,098,000	131,157,000—	5.4	122,940,500+	0.9
Cotton mill spin. hours*	6,057,602	7,260,010—	16.6	6,662,550—	9.1
Electricity, kw. h.***	7,819,000	7,458,000+	4.8	8,012,000—	2.4
Gasoline (bbls.)	34,728,000	34,097,000+	1.9	35,314,000—	1.7
Glass, pl. pol. (sq. ft.)	16,998,914	8,629,381+	97.0	16,531,950+	2.8
Gold (Rand) (ozs.)	869,956	865,822+	0.5	882,309—	1.4
Lead, refined (tons)	32,389	32,113+	0.9	32,921—	1.6
Malleable castings (tons)	42,035	40,742+	3.2	42,808—	1.8
Newsprint, U. S. & Can-					
ada (tons)	297,135	296,047+	0.4	279,210+	6.4
Paperboard (tons)	620,365	244,334+	6.6	275,770—	5.6
Petroleum, crude (bbls.)	78,247,000	75,796,000+	3.2	81,488,000—	4.0
Pneumatic casings	4,845,581	5,180,122—	16.1	4,382,663—	0.8
Range boilers (no.)	31,052	35,960+	42.0	51,891—	1.6
Steel castings, commer-					
cial (tons)	614,385	657,185—	6.5	523,362+	17.4
Steel sheets (short tons)	31,952	46,242—	30.9	31,940+	0.1
Steel sheets (long tons)	209,219	214,522—	2.5	227,082—	7.9
Sulphuric acid (tons)	139,333	119,619+	16.5	141,352—	1.4
Tobacco and products					
Cigarettes, small*	10,696,782	9,293,631+	15.1	10,199,612+	4.9
Cigars, large	373,672,734	345,066,731+	8.3	351,694,102+	6.2
Tobacco and snuff					
(lbs.)	27,689,354	27,260,046+	1.6	27,970,483—	1.0

\* Three cyphers omitted. † Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. †† F. W. Dodge Corp. ‡ March and corresponding months.

## SHIPMENTS AND CONSUMPTION

	May, 1935	May, 1934	Ch'ge P. Ct.	Apr., 1935	Ch'ge P. Ct.
Silk consumption (bales)	38,361	38,740—	1.0	39,757—	3.5
Steel shipments (tons)	598,915	745,063—	19.6	591,728+	1.2
Tin, deliveries U. S.					
(long tons)	3,950	4,110—	3.9	5,825—	32.2
Zinc, shipments (tons)	35,652	35,589+	0.2	38,460—	7.3
	Apr., 1935	Apr., 1934	Ch'ge P. Ct.	Mar., 1935	Ch'ge P. Ct.
Anthracite, ship. (tons)	4,168,364	4,173,110—	0.1	2,555,260+	63.1
Babbitt met., sales (lbs.)	1,776,496	1,964,142—	9.6	1,746,177+	1.7
Carloading (cars)	2,492,800	2,435,000+	2.3	2,611,500—	4.6
Cement, ship. (bbls.)	6,196,000	6,492,000—	4.6	4,878,000+	27.0
Coal, anth. and bit., ind.					
cons. (tons)	23,322,000	23,286,000+	0.2	25,089,000—	7.0
Cotton cons. (bales)	462,844	512,594—	9.7	481,135—	3.8
Gasoline cons. (bbls.)	30,076,000	32,375,000—	11.4	31,897,000—	12.7
Lead, refined (tons)	40,922	30,673+	33.4	28,973+	41.2
Malleable castings (tons)	46,090	39,817+	15.8	42,975+	7.2

## SHIPMENTS AND CONSUMPTION (Continued)

	Apr., 1935	Apr., 1934	Ch'ge P. Ct.	Mar., 1935	Ch'ge P. Ct.
Newsprint, U. S. & Can-					
ada (tons)	313,961	303,152+	3.6	273,239—	14.9
Oil-burners (no.)	8,880	6,988+	27.1	5,817—	52.7
Paints and var., sales (\$)	33,721,326	27,703,643+	21.7	27,332,504+	23.4
Petroleum, crude, runs-					
to-stills (bbls.)	75,066,000	73,563,000+	2.0	76,630,000—	2.0
Pneumatic casings	4,204,131	4,222,962—	0.4	3,287,394+	27.9
Prep. roofing (squares)	2,974,297	2,945,823+	1.0	2,931,941—	46.4
Range boilers (no.)	55,764	36,681+	52.0	49,489—	12.7
Rubber, cr., cons. (tons)	44,714	44,853—	0.3	42,620+	4.9
Steel barrels	610,848	658,216—	7.2	525,022+	16.3
Steel sheets, ship. (short					
tons)	202,365	184,042+	10.0	233,446—	13.3
Sulph. acid, cons. (tons)	93,873	107,842—	13.0	104,041—	9.8
Waste paper (consump.)					
(tons)	217,442	197,741+	10.0	231,584—	6.1
Wool consump. (lbs.)	62,066,000	29,889,000+	107.7	65,006,000—	4.5

‡ March and corresponding months.

## STOCKS ON HAND AT END OF MONTH

	May, 1935	May, 1934	Ch'ge P. Ct.	Apr., 1935	Ch'ge P. Ct.
Silk, raw (bales)	30,762	61,060—	39.8	37,587—	2.2
Tin, world's visible sup-					
ply (long tons)	16,718	17,371—	3.8	16,614+	0.6
Zinc (tons)	107,625	104,729+	2.8	108,680—	1.0
	Apr., 1935	Apr., 1934	Ch'ge P. Ct.	Mar., 1935	Ch'ge P. Ct.
Bathroom access. (pcs.)					
Vitreous clay	305,643	301,238+	1.5	314,014—	2.7
Non-vitreous clay	61,950	75,059—	17.5	60,735+	2.0
Cement (bbls.)	21,229,000	21,557,000—	1.5	21,289,000—	0.3
Coal, anth. and bit., ind.					
stocks (tons)	34,537,000	27,158,000+	27.2	36,685,000—	5.9
Coke, by-product (tons)	3,019,016	1,963,743+	53.8	2,960,823+	2.0
Cotton, ex. lint. (bales)					
In mfg. plants	1,060,946	1,584,620—	33.1	1,117,069—	5.1
In warehouses	7,201,695	7,094,302+	1.5	7,784,966—	7.5
Gasoline at ref. (bbls.)	37,867,000	40,914,000—	7.4	40,220,000—	5.9
Lead, refined (tons)	220,043	222,892—	1.3	228,580—	3.7
Newsprint, U. S. & Can-					
ada (tons)	79,130	58,451+	35.4	96,000—	17.6
Oil-burners (no.)	14,622	14,011+	4.4	14,170+	3.2
Petroleum, crude, excl.					
Calif. (bbls.)	297,380,000	312,005,000—	4.7	295,351,000+	0.7
Porcelain plumbing fix-					
tures (pieces)	10,710	9,140+	17.2	9,917+	8.0
Pneumatic casings	11,675,268	11,650,661+	0.2	11,529,561+	1.3
Range boilers (no.)	28,065	34,465—	18.6	32,777—	14.4
Rubber, U. S. & Afloat					
(long tons)	372,605	408,232—	8.7	383,185—	2.5
Steel barrels	32,490	33,808—	3.9	28,953+	12.2
Steel sheets (sh. tons)	116,316	135,796—	14.3	108,260+	7.4
Sulphuric acid (tons)	97,898	78,127+	25.3	101,429—	3.5
Waste paper (tons)	244,913	244,141+	0.3	242,157+	1.1

‡ March and corresponding months.

## GOVERNMENT STATISTICS

	Apr. 30, 1935	Apr. 30, 1934	Mar. 31, 1935
Money in circ., U. S. (\$)	5,477,960,773	5,367,572,469	5,493,137,741
Population	127,035,000	126,303,000	126,974,000
Per capita (\$)	43.12	42.50	43.26
Gen. stock mov. U. S. (\$)	14,680,036,037	13,539,773,590	14,522,785,710
	May 31, 1935	May 31, 1934	Apr. 30, 1935
Debt, gross, U. S. (\$)	28,638,385,223	26,155,017,448	28,668,106,391
United States:			
Receipts, ordinary (\$)	246,116,851	236,564,182	227,856,758
Expenditures, ord. (\$)	275,092,426	198,914,274	517,246,359
Expenditures, emerg. (\$)	336,034,594	350,441,240	279,372,556

## MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS

Price Index Numbers (Wholesale)

	Base June 1, Year 1935	May 1, 1935	April 1, 1935	Same month 1934
DUN'S	\$174.314	\$176.231	\$172.461	\$163.985
BRADSTREET'S	\$9.9070	\$9.7965	\$9.6643	\$9.1404
U. S. Bureau of Labor	1926	126.0	125.8	108.2
Annalist	1913	126.0	125.8	108.2
Canada (Dom. Bureau)	1926	72.3	72.5	71.1
	Apr., 1935	Mar., 1935	Feb., 1935	Same month 1934
U. K. (Board of Trade)	1930	87.5	86.9	88.0
U. K. (Economist)	1913	91.8	90.9	91.3
U. K. (Statist)	1913	98.9	97.5	98.1
France (Stat. Gen.)	1913	846	844	840
Italy (Bach.)	1913	289	289	282
Germany (Official)	1913	100.8	100.7	100.9
Belgium	1914	132	132	135
Denmark (Official)	1913	132	132	135
Norway	1913	125	125	125
Sweden	1913	115	115	115
Holland	1913	76	75	78
Japan (Oriental Economist)	1913	174.6	176.0	176.8
China (Shanghai)	1926	95.9	96.4	99.9

‡ Average over previous month.

# MAY BUILDING PERMIT VALUES BY CITIES

THE detailed report of building permit values by cities for May, 1935 and 1934, and for April, 1935, as reported to Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., follows:

New England	May, 1935	May, 1934	April, 1935
Boston	\$1,463,813	\$559,609	\$1,032,250
Bridgeport	92,389	213,975	56,045
Brockton	26,815	27,735	118,400
Burlington, Vt.	16,975	54,110	39,215
Cambridge	47,625	33,846	39,300
Chelsea	11,670	8,495	12,645
Everett	9,367	5,650	9,676
Fall River	16,422	24,124	54,110
Fitchburg	8,400	97,765	19,454
Greenwich	95,745	727,784	97,055
Hartford	124,736	121,640	447,391
Haverhill	21,620	23,670	9,135
Holyoke	11,775	17,250	25,000
Lawrence	26,000	169,103	28,337
Lowell	13,805	18,360	15,965
Lynn	35,169	33,280	18,385
Manchester	39,130	62,815	62,665
Medford	16,665	18,522	9,835
New Bedford	25,750	34,400	12,200
New Britain	18,331	36,022	37,788
New Haven	50,395	86,032	80,223
Newton	281,562	376,685	141,565
Norwalk	38,475	44,980	43,113
Portland, Me.	71,155	36,175	20,202
Providence	198,450	188,450	203,900
Quincy, Mass.	64,541	75,708	41,611
Salem	33,070	39,265	23,530
Somerville	20,750	31,185	21,892
Spr'gfield, Mass.	28,970	73,099	45,574
Stamford	48,760	78,187	47,520
Waterbury	41,025	96,150	46,275
West Hartford	305,277	135,107	215,174
Worcester	105,242	97,857	779,210
Total	\$3,409,874	\$3,642,035	\$3,854,640

Middle Atlantic	May, 1935	May, 1934	April, 1935
Manhattan 1	\$1,486,200	\$8,596,700	\$3,892,750
Manhattan 2	1,641,585	1,097,091	1,444,890
Bronx 1	2,371,250	1,880,450	1,110,825
Bronx 2	405,281	359,634	326,148
Brooklyn 1	1,776,205	1,462,295	2,112,820
Brooklyn 2	710,140	1,023,049	583,960
Queens 1	2,290,262	984,133	1,572,053
Queens 2	371,786	603,070	306,332
Richmond 1	118,600	118,557	1,130,882
Richmond 2	195,129	145,860	162,718
Total N.Y.C.	\$11,366,418	\$16,270,839	\$12,643,378

(1) New work. (2) Alterations.	May, 1935	May, 1934	April, 1935
Albany	\$178,693	\$272,192	\$192,156
Allentown	18,900	100,565	206,555
Altoona	26,126	29,017	29,003
Atlantic City	52,450	35,234	53,005
Auburn	18,375	660,375	33,255
Bayonne	22,705	5,300	52,765
Binghamton	88,892	128,433	98,914
Buffalo	160,797	131,619	160,064
Camden	143,849	13,462	93,115
East Orange	90,033	31,695	37,414
Elizabeth	82,064	34,050	156,900
Elmira	33,771	21,341	11,538
Erle	49,076	27,510	31,667
Harrisburg	81,350	13,000	62,431
Jamestown	20,550	167,802	27,368
Jersey City	64,787	74,633	96,631
Lancaster	47,511	25,620	86,075
Mount Vernon	108,295	49,672	57,110
Newark, N. J.	290,263	195,351	118,812

Mid. Atlantic (Cont.)	May, 1935	May, 1934	April, 1935
New Brunswick	\$29,493	\$10,804	\$4,764
New Rochelle	46,366	19,573	73,348
Niagara Falls	99,905	125,003	116,173
Philadelphia	682,860	635,210	534,630
Pittsburgh	598,567	183,189	846,437
Poughkeepsie	31,450	49,014	7,393
Reading	38,280	33,055	81,995
Rochester	190,876	160,327	103,449
Schenectady	61,703	57,437	54,557
Syracuse	117,550	69,815	134,275
Troy	61,995	26,145	40,810
Utica	11,135	977,575	13,250
Watertown	18,070	24,735	9,162
White Plains	35,310	17,850	18,572
Wilkes-Barre	69,971	54,814	64,588
Wilmington	29,367	31,482	56,850
Yonkers	236,480	187,580	97,250
York	29,991	31,346	35,256

Total \$15,511,312 \$21,128,854 \$10,869,672

South Atlantic	May, 1935	May, 1934	April, 1935
Asheville	\$87,751	\$62,761	\$69,425
Atlanta	214,602	196,716	254,526
Augusta	16,937	8,732	23,736
Baltimore	979,680	1,003,800	840,420
Charleston, S. C.	67,170	11,250	23,039
Charlotte	79,923	42,383	118,529
Coral Gables	30,600	17,175	16,500
Greensboro	120,346	27,281	145,473
Greenville	25,230	26,500	35,175
Jack'nville, Fla.	369,803	119,221	193,503
Lynchburg	34,747	25,125	86,391
Macon	22,918	58,701	39,440
Miami	413,024	188,918	319,724
Miami Beach	1,300,000	596,365	954,700
Norfolk	94,450	66,133	95,414
Richmond	174,942	149,237	89,193
Ronoke	37,009	10,556	38,083
Savannah	47,175	17,110	12,605
Tampa	87,900	65,571	38,369
Washington, D.C.	2,611,585	773,595	1,226,120
Winston-Salem	67,387	24,422	67,030

Total \$6,882,479 \$3,491,150 \$4,677,395

East Central	May, 1935	May, 1934	April, 1935
Akron	\$159,383	\$115,764	\$115,940
Bay City	40,530	72,282	30,858
Retwyn	5,000	39,050	2,070
Bluefield	12,625	4,850	6,555
Canton	33,917	38,865	38,930
Chicago	1,055,600	816,801	1,839,778
Cincinnati	797,070	761,580	643,090
Clarksburg	44,593	19,856	27,305
Cleveland	269,800	218,400	291,600
Columbus	120,350	72,400	92,100
Dayton	36,102	76,118	39,064
Detroit	1,937,954	905,925	1,585,052
East St. Louis	29,035	13,180	25,751
Evanston	53,500	81,600	55,750
Evansville	95,620	47,418	260,747
Flint	120,832	157,750	92,817
Fort Wayne	116,434	20,466	107,102
Gary	82,515	26,145	54,293
Grand Rapids	68,435	53,330	55,250
Green Bay	72,006	34,135	78,665
Hammond	62,694	21,738	57,413
Huntington	2,300	10,395	25,000
Indianapolis	334,429	125,635	379,081
Lansing	204,655	75,350	44,280
Lima	9,898	13,950	10,670
Louisville	293,062	228,043	218,950
Madison	115,522	55,387	60,610
Milwaukee	622,880	259,496	1,297,423
Newark, O.	625	580	3,600
Ok Park	84,895	15,000	57,495
Peoria	54,927	66,725	430,610
Pontiac	227,156	18,265	18,550
Quincy, Ill.	1,590	7,575	7,060
Racine	47,414	15,710	15,202
Rockford	22,235	8,070	27,780
Saginaw	62,620	27,580	89,719
South Bend	46,455	36,320	52,130
Springfield, Ill.	24,090	40,416	22,000
Springfield, O.	15,565	8,402	37,608
Superior	18,866	14,779	21,071
Terre Haute	40,854	329,029	30,393
Toledo	88,062	68,565	75,428
Waukegan	9,345	16,950	16,887
Wheeling	39,855	69,520	43,584
Youngstown	70,715	70,820	37,218
Zanesville	15,375	5,905	9,133

Total \$7,667,385 \$5,184,108 \$8,551,564

South Central	May, 1935	May, 1934	April, 1935
Arlene	\$11,765	\$2,850	\$4,610
Amarillo	25,211	13,918	23,630
Austin	658,030	58,335	293,196
Beaumont	61,843	46,911	46,008
Birmingham	87,108	55,941	128,977
Chattanooga	88,037	47,012	93,756
Dallas	304,105	256,029	301,596
El Paso	24,747	28,413	629,491
Fort Smith	29,821	33,596	58,307
Fort Worth	115,200	76,250	556,208
Galveston	43,811	28,291	53,924
Houston	644,974	1,263,190	503,580
Jackson	64,750	26,448	32,110
Knoxville	69,652	229,902	479,105
Little Rock	53,318	39,444	26,958
Memphis	184,990	161,460	216,840
Mobile	44,407	30,358	25,556
Montgomery	66,385	22,699	58,377
Muskogee	7,853	5,885	8,335
Nashville	461,286	63,733	72,402
New Orleans	180,911	110,583	202,361
Oklahoma City	156,985	56,190	163,245
Port Arthur	29,057	14,340	24,481
San Angelo	4,505	10,000	14,630
San Antonio	201,991	48,122	375,070
Shreveport	72,417	132,661	132,634
Tulsa	125,016	69,905	100,935
Waco	18,125	25,080	25,335
Wichita Falls	19,717	6,169	26,509

Total \$3,856,017 \$2,963,715 \$4,675,175

West Central	May, 1935	May, 1934	April, 1935
Cedar Rapids	\$81,085	\$134,003	\$99,740
Davenport	63,251	56,925	50,394
Des Moines	100,170	140,255	113,416
Dubuque	14,094	13,578	30,225
Duluth	85,922	42,518	61,483
Fargo	19,305	61,785	48,040
Kansas City, Kan.	25,000	19,115	31,620
Kansas City, Mo.	1,052,600	246,600	438,800
Lincoln	58,082	54,771	76,950
Minneapolis	522,330	543,625	341,265
Omaha	121,864	789,354	83,464
St. Joseph	13,475	71,390	21,680
St. Louis	639,919	421,364	670,097
St. Paul	431,998	214,900	334,832
Sioux City	35,220	25,250	41,235
Sioux Falls	54,990	19,810	43,195
Tonka	71,505	20,385	126,940
Wichita	134,249	152,916	100,820

Total \$3,525,159 \$3,028,544 \$2,713,665

Mountain	May, 1935	May, 1934	April, 1935
Billings	\$265,557	\$21,485	\$31,375
Boise	79,167	15,970	65,911
Butte	4,205	620	9,000
Colorado Spgs.	9,613	17,812	61,685
Denver	288,946	198,654	462,295
Great Falls	21,865	8,109	57,589
Ogden	45,180	76,850	30,500
Phoenix	541,356	65,815	31,480
Pueblo	38,383	7,584	15,946
Salt Lake City	123,507	43,250	96,022
Tucson	48,537	50,119	80,747

Total \$1,200,789 \$484,792 \$911,443

Pacific	May, 1935	May, 1934	April, 1935
Bakersfield	\$109,408	\$39,320	\$70,543
Berkeley	127,442	50,101	49,421
Beverly Hills	326,016	202,800	168,500
Fresno	171,949	99,820	138,015
Glendale	202,735	202,490	155,172
Long Beach	700,850	105,526	528,275
Los Angeles	2,473,064	1,028,023	4,375,838
Oakland	431,933	220,920	305,078
Pasadena	103,967	49,647	457,442
Portland, Ore.	271,445	288,605	274,745
Sacramento	231,250	74,021	127,449
San Diego	436,921	87,233	823,689
San Francisco	1,137,323	613,417	698,915
San Jose	139,620	56,585	131,900
Seattle	144,465	582,530	222,630
Spokane	137,314	53,205	192,350
Stockton	83,483	82,042	164,554
Tecoma	39,910	65,785	110,000

Total \$7,269,095 \$3,902,070 \$9,464,016

Total U. S. \$49,322,110 \$43,825,268 \$51,717,570

New York City \$11,366,418 \$16,270,839 \$12,643,378

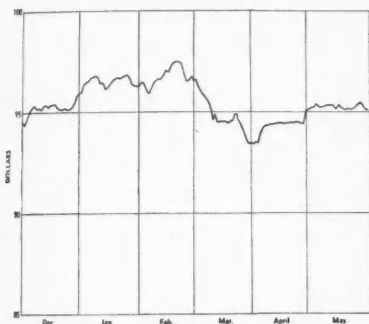
Outside N.Y.C. \$37,955,692 \$27,554,429 \$39,074,192

# IMPROVEMENT IN STOCK MARKET CONTINUED

by GEORGE RAMBLES

IMPROVEMENT in the securities markets of New York, already in evidence during April, was continued throughout almost all of May. It was offset only in part during the latter days of the month by apprehensions of reductions in general price levels, in consequence of Supreme Court decisions holding essential elements of the New Deal unconstitutional.

BOND PRICES \*



(\* ) Based on statistics compiled by Dow, Jones & Co., publishers of "The Wall Street Journal." As most all the more speculative issues moved upward, bond prices reached a higher level than in April, despite weakness in Government securities.

Virtually all groups of stocks were marked somewhat higher in the course of active trading during May. Sentiment improved vastly and the favorable trend was almost uninterrupted until the high Court declared the National Industrial Recovery Act code-making provisions unconstitutional, on May 27.

Industrial stocks were in greatest favor and wide gains appeared in many issues of this nature. Activity in the automobile industry continued at a good pace and stimulated demand for products in many allied lines. Seasonal recessions in various industries were less pronounced than might have been expected.

Added to such factors was the start of the huge recovery program in Washington, involving expendi-

tures of \$4,800,000,000 by the Federal Government. Disclosure of some plans relating to the relief efforts made it plain that industry would be quickened and improvement in industrial stocks followed.

Railroad stocks also tended higher in a majority of the stock-market sessions. This movement was due mainly to a Supreme Court ruling of May 6, holding the railway pension law unconstitutional in a five to four opinion. This meant that the carriers would not be subjected to the increased operating costs called for by the legislation. The advance in the rail stocks was restrained, however, owing to prompt Administration indications that a means will be sought to effect the pension law provisions by Constitutional means. Utility shares also were in better demand.

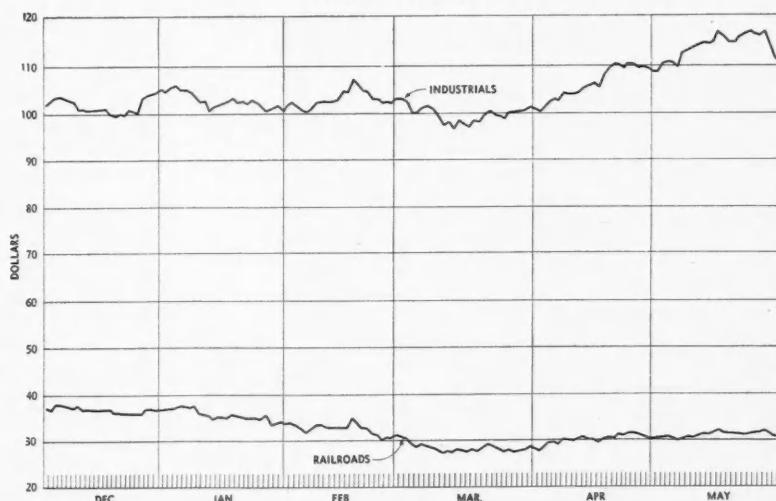
Opinions differed widely as to the likelihood of enactment of the Rayburn-Wheeler bill providing for elimination of unsound

utility holding companies by 1941.

In the listed bond market the tendency was firm, as a whole. United States Government securities drifted very slightly lower, since the relief program obviously involves the issuance of large amounts of new obligations. Highest grade corporate bonds were well maintained, while speculative issues moved upward in emulation of the stock-market tendency. In the foreign dollar bond department, severe losses were sustained by French issues, but recovery followed when a new Cabinet was named on May 31.

Activity on the New York Stock Exchange was on a level not witnessed since February, 1934. Turnover in stocks amounted to 30,438,000 shares, against 22,408,000 shares in April and 25,343,000 in May, 1934. Transactions exceeded the 2,000,000-share mark on several days. Listed bond trading totalled \$285,000,000, par value.

STOCK PRICES \*



(\* ) Based on statistics compiled by Dow, Jones & Co., publishers of "The Wall Street Journal." Virtually all groups of stocks were marked somewhat higher in the course of active trading during May. Wide gains were recorded for most of the industrial issues before the Supreme Court decisions was handed down.

# INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKETS

**M**ONETARY storms kept the world's economic weather unsettled during May. The French franc was subjected in the closing days of that month to extraordinary pressure, largely as a result of an immense capital flight from France and partly in consequence of speculative maneuvers against the French unit elsewhere.

A political crisis paralleled the French monetary uncertainty and forced a Cabinet change on May 31, but a measure of confidence quickly was re-established and the franc escaped devaluation. This incident served to make currency depreciation a live issue in France, and it is already evident that the French political scene will be dominated increasingly, hereafter, by monetary questions.

In British and American financial circles, devaluation by the three remaining members of the European gold bloc now is regarded as all but certain. Suspension of gold payments might even be welcomed as paving the way

toward a currency conference at which all leading circulating units could be stabilized on new relationships.

Some tentative approaches to the problem of stabilization were made last month, notably by the United States Government. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., announced in the course of a radio address on May 13 that the United States is not unwilling to stabilize.

## Exchange Stability Sought

Washington will not be an obstacle, when the world is ready to seek foreign exchange stability, Mr. Morgenthau said. If the great trading nations elect to continue under the present absence of rules, however, the United States no longer is at a disadvantage, he added. It may prove of some significance that this country was portrayed as able to move either way.

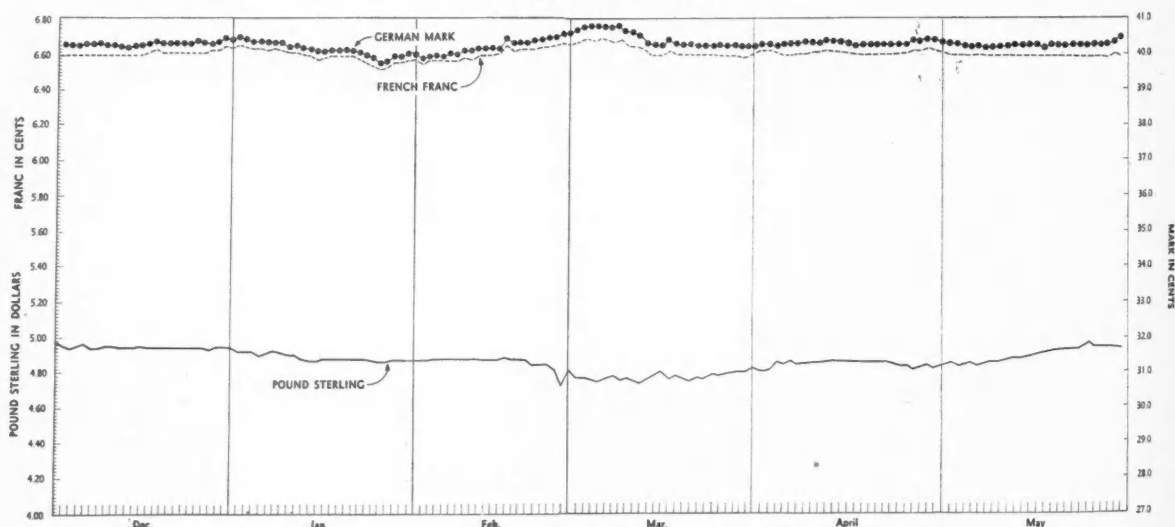
No formal response to the American suggestions was made by the British Government, but discourses on the currency situ-

ation were delivered by Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald and Chancellor of the Exchequer Neville Chamberlain. The British officials made it clear that the situation is not regarded in England as calling for any immediate measures. The view still prevails in London that formal stabilization can be undertaken only after the French and American units will have been brought into a better relationship, and world commodity price levels adjusted.

This general situation and the increasingly widespread opinion that France, Holland and Switzerland eventually will find it either necessary or advisable to devalue their units in terms of gold contributed much to the French crisis that developed in the last few days of May. At least equally important, however, was the internal situation in France.

The effects of the depression have been felt with ever-greater severity in that country during recent years, and public opinion has veered steadily toward the view

THE DOLLAR ABROAD



The French franc was subjected to considerable pressure during May, as French gold losses totalled approximately \$400,000,000 in a two-weeks' period. Sterling exchange rose during most of the month, in terms of the dollar and of gold, the unit hovering somewhat above the nominal parity of \$4.8665. The mark held steady.

that depreciation may prove a valuable instrument in combating the deflation. Budgetary difficulties of the French Government augmented this view.

In order to gain a free hand for dealing with the situation, Premier Pierre-Etienne Flandin requested extraordinary powers when the French Parliament reassembled on May 28, after a brief recess. The plea proved unpopular, however, and the Flandin regime went down to defeat in a test of confidence on May 31. These developments were foreshadowed, and apprehensions of extraordinary expedients

brought about a tremendous outflow of capital from France.

Gold was made available by the Bank of France, however, and no suspension occurred, even though the takings of the metal for export ran in excess of 1,000,000,000 francs a day for a time. French gold losses totalled approximately \$400,000,000 in a two-weeks' period, despite the rapid increase of the Bank of France discount rate to 6 per cent from its former level at 2½ per cent.

The Swiss franc also was subjected to some pressure during May, owing to the impending

plebiscite on national economic policies that might entail devaluation of the currency. The Government was sustained, however, in the balloting of June 2, and an orderly working out of the problem is indicated. Sterling exchange was steady during May, in terms of the dollar and of gold, the unit hovering somewhat above the nominal parity of \$4.8665.

Silver metal was steadier than in earlier months, but Peru found it necessary in the opening days of May to recall all silver coins and to replace these with paper notes.

# DAILY CLOSING QUOTATIONS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE (BANKERS' BILLS) IN THE NEW YORK MARKET DURING MAY, 1935

Country and Par	Wed. May 1	Thurs. May 2	Fri. May 3	Sat. May 4	Mon. May 5	Tues. May 6	Wed. May 7	Thurs. May 8	Fri. May 9	Sat. May 10	Mon. May 11	Tues. May 12	Wed. May 13	Thurs. May 14	Fri. May 15	Sat. May 16
England, checks (Pound \$8.2397).....	4.83%	4.84%	4.83%	4.84%	4.85	4.83%	4.84%	4.85%	4.85%	4.85%	4.86%	4.87%	4.88	4.88	4.89%	4.89%
England, cables (Pound \$8.2397).....	4.83%	4.84%	4.83%	4.84%	4.85	4.83%	4.84%	4.85%	4.85%	4.85%	4.86%	4.87%	4.88	4.88	4.89%	4.89%
France, checks (Franc 6.6335c).....	6.60%	6.59%	6.59%	6.59%	6.59	6.59%	6.58%	6.58%	6.58%	6.58%	6.58%	6.58%	6.58%	6.58%	6.58%	6.58%
France, cables (Franc 6.6335c).....	6.60%	6.59%	6.59%	6.59%	6.59%	6.59%	6.59%	6.59%	6.59%	6.59%	6.59%	6.59%	6.59	6.59	6.59	6.58%
Germany, checks (Mark 40.33c).....	40.32	40.28	40.26	40.22	40.19	40.22	40.18	40.19	40.19	40.21	40.21	40.24	40.24	40.24	40.24	40.24
Germany, cables (Mark 40.33c).....	40.34	40.30	40.28	40.24	40.21	40.24	40.20	40.21	40.21	40.23	40.23	40.26	40.26	40.27	40.27	40.26
Belgium, checks (Belga 16.95c).....	16.96	16.94	16.93%	16.93	16.92%	16.92%	16.92%	16.92%	16.91%	16.91%	16.92	16.92	16.92	16.92	16.92	16.91
Belgium, cables (Belga 16.95c).....	16.96%	16.94%	16.94	16.93%	16.93	16.93	16.93	16.92%	16.92	16.92%	16.92	16.92%	16.92	16.92	16.92%	16.91%
Holland, checks (Guilder 68.056c).....	67.69	67.56	67.56	67.55	67.54	67.62	67.65	67.58	67.64	67.71	67.69	67.69	67.69	67.73	67.73	67.71
Holland, cables (Guilder 68.056c).....	67.73	67.60	67.60	67.59	67.58	67.66	67.69	67.62	67.68	67.75	67.73	67.73	67.73	67.73	67.73	67.75
Czechoslovakia, checks (Crown 4.18c).....	4.18%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17	4.17	4.17	4.17	4.17	4.17	4.16%
Czechoslovakia, cables (Crown 4.18c).....	4.18%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17%	4.17	4.17	4.17%	4.17
Switzerland, checks (Franc 32.67c).....	32.42%	32.38%	32.37	32.37%	32.35%	32.35	32.34%	32.33	32.33	32.33	32.33	32.33	32.33	32.33	32.33%	32.32%
Switzerland, cables (Franc 32.67c).....	32.43	32.39	32.37%	32.38	32.36	32.35%	32.35	32.33%	32.33	32.33%	32.32%	32.33%	32.33%	32.33	32.34	32.33
Italy, checks (Lira 8.911c).....	8.25	8.24%	8.24	8.23%	8.23%	8.23%	8.23	8.22%	8.23	8.22%	8.20%	8.22%	8.24	8.22%	8.24	8.22%
Italy, cables (Lira 8.911c).....	8.25%	8.24%	8.24%	8.23%	8.23%	8.23%	8.23	8.22%	8.23	8.22%	8.20%	8.22%	8.24	8.22%	8.24	8.22%
Spain, checks (Peseta 32.67c).....	13.69	13.66%	13.65%	13.66%	13.65%	13.65	13.65%	13.65	13.65	13.65	13.65	13.65	13.65	13.65	13.65	13.65
Spain, cables (Peseta 32.67c).....	13.70	13.67%	13.66%	13.67%	13.66%	13.66	13.66	13.66	13.66	13.66	13.66	13.66	13.66	13.66	13.66	13.66
Portugal, checks (Escudo 7.483c).....	4.42	4.42	4.41%	4.42	4.43	4.42%	4.43	4.43	4.43	4.43%	4.44	4.45	4.45%	4.45%	4.45%	4.47%
Portugal, cables (Escudo 7.483c).....	4.42	4.42	4.41%	4.42	4.43	4.42%	4.43	4.43	4.43	4.43%	4.44	4.45	4.45%	4.45%	4.45%	4.47%
Denmark, checks (Krone 45.374c).....	21.58	21.63	21.60	21.61	21.65	21.60	21.63	21.66	21.68	21.71	21.76	21.77	21.78	21.78	21.78	21.86
Denmark, cables (Krone 45.374c).....	21.59	21.64	21.61	21.62	21.66	21.61	21.64	21.67	21.69	21.72	21.77	21.78	21.78	21.78	21.78	21.87
Sweden, checks (Krona 45.374c).....	24.93	24.97	24.94	24.95	25.01	24.95	24.98	25.02	25.04	25.07	25.13	25.14	25.17	25.17	25.17	25.25
Sweden, cables (Krona 45.374c).....	24.94	24.98	24.95	24.96	25.02	24.96	24.99	25.03	25.05	25.08	25.15	25.16	25.18	25.18	25.18	25.26
Norway, checks (Krone 45.374c).....	24.29	24.33	24.31	24.32	24.37	24.31	24.34	24.38	24.40	24.43	24.50	24.50	24.52	24.52	24.52	24.60
Norway, cables (Krone 45.374c).....	24.30	24.34	24.32	24.33	24.38	24.32	24.35	24.39	24.41	24.44	24.51	24.51	24.53	24.53	24.53	24.61
Greece, checks (Drachma 2.197c).....	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%
Greece, cables (Drachma 2.197c).....	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%	.93%
Australia, checks (Pound \$8.2397).....	3.86%	3.87%	3.86%	3.87	3.87%	3.86%	3.87%	3.87%	3.88%	3.88%	3.89%	3.89%	3.90%	3.90%	3.91%	3.91%
Australia, cables (Pound \$8.2397).....	3.86%	3.87%	3.86%	3.87	3.88	3.87	3.87%	3.88	3.88%	3.88%	3.89	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90%	3.91%
Montreal, demand (Dollar \$1.6931).....	99.66	99.75	99.72	99.68	99.75	99.72	99.81	99.84	100.00	100.06	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.09
Argentina, demand (Paper peso 71.87c).....	32.20	32.26	32.33	32.23	32.33	32.23	32.30	32.33	32.36	32.36	32.50	32.50	32.53	32.53	32.53	32.66
Brazil, demand (Paper milreis 20.25c).....	8.62%	8.60	8.57%	8.57%	8.54	8.56	8.57%	8.58	8.57%	8.57%	8.58%	8.54%	8.57%	8.57%	8.58%	8.58%
*Chile, demand (Gold peso 5.19c).....	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15
*Mexico, demand (Silver peso 34.398c).....	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80	27.80
*Uruguay, demand (Gold peso \$1.751).....	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00

\* Nominal quotations. † Holiday.

# MODERATE GAINS IN TEXTILE BUYING

by C. S. WOOLSLEY

MAY was more active in primary textile markets than April but within four days of the close of the month the Supreme Court declared the N.R.A. unconstitutional and trading came to a standstill. Improvement was noted in retail and wholesale distribution during the month, but in primary channels there was a distinct gain in confidence and substantial provisions were made for future needs.

As a rule, buyers were greatly favored as to prices, as many cloths were sold below the cost of production. Indeed, the sales gains represented an opportunity to move out merchandise and book future orders rather than a period of profitable operations for mills.

## Wages and Hours Unchanged

Production was beginning to show a little gain in the divisions where curtailment was large, but as the month closed manufacturers were so confused that no attempt was made to increase operations. In keeping with a general desire expressed by code officials at Washington, it was decided not to make any change in the N.R.A. schedules of wages and working hours, this action being prompted, in most cases, by the wish to avoid labor troubles.

In several cases, where goods had been sold for contract delivery subject to allowances in the case of adverse legislation or political action at Washington, it was felt that buyers would be entitled to rebates if costs of production, due to such action, were changed.

In the cotton goods industry, production was being curtailed 25 per cent in some divisions under N.R.A. permits and that policy was continued, and may be followed

for several weeks by common agreement. The rayon industry continues to increase output and was averaging above 75 per cent of capacity as the month closed. Silk production was very low, not averaging above 60 per cent, while fabric finishers were becoming inactive, due to the seasonal quiet. The wool goods industry continued fully active in the men's wear division and gains were under way in the dress goods division, although an unsettled union dispute was threatening in the garment trades.

While the retail trade was not generally as active as hoped for in the second month of the Spring season, there were many indications of a full movement, indicating that consumption was holding up surprisingly well, in view of the reputed idleness of millions of consumers. This was attributed to the continuing distribution of Government aid. Wherever such aid was notably full, buying for immediate and future consumption was stimulated and accounted for the gains reported in different parts of the primary markets, not only in demands for immediate shipments, but in the placing of orders for future delivery.

## Rayon Recovered Strongly

The rayon industry came back strong during the month. The larger yarn producers had disposed of stocks and had booked their full output for the month, with half the scheduled output for June before the third week began, and the advance in price made earlier was fully maintained. Business was active on many of the plain fabrics for linings and for general printing and converting uses, and repeat orders for fancies

for Fall consumption were frequent.

It was stated that the cutting and distributing markets showed less uncertainty and price-cutting than in the two previous seasons. Leaders of the silk code authority had asked for a hearing before the N.I.R.A. seeking to join the rayon weaving industry, then under the cotton goods code, with the silk code. That all passed out with the codes themselves. Nearly one-half of the looms in silk mills were active on rayon production at the time, rather than on cocoon silk products.

## Wool Division Leading

The silk industry was threatened several times with strikes, but they did not materialize, nor were the threats made by silk workers to invade the New England rayon and silk field to force higher wages, carried out. The silk mills specializing on all-silk quality merchandise reported moderate and steady sales for Fall. The sales of printed silks and piece-dyed all-silk crepes were not up to expectations, but silks in the gray were rather more profitable and somewhat steadier than in the preceding month.

The wool goods industry was not only better employed than any of the other major textile divisions but it was conspicuous because of the stability of prices compared with recent years. During the month, advances of 5c. to 10c. a yard were announced on many of the men's wear worsteds. At the close many large mills had withdrawn all prices temporarily pending further developments in the raw wool division, where values were firm and steadily rising. Wool blankets were sold

ahead for Fall more freely and generally than cotton or part-wool blankets, five or six of the prominent mills having all the business they can handle for the next few months.

The cotton goods industry was undergoing an investigation during the month by a committee of four Cabinet officers appointed by the President. This investigation was still under way when the Supreme Court decisions upset all plans.

### Cotton Goods Active

As the hearings before the investigating committee went on, several other matters were taken up and many plans were offered for curing the ills of the industry, generally under Government direction or with Government aid. It is now expected that something will be done to afford relief from excessive imports, but relief from processor taxes, or for exporters, is considered very doubtful, following the collapse of the N.R.A., and the limitations under the Constitution within which the Government must work.

The cotton goods business was active right up to the time the decision was made public. Sales exceeded production, stocks were reduced very much, while unfilled orders for sheetings and print

cloths were substantially in excess of stocks at the close. The forward engagements made included orders from chain and catalog institutions, converters, and printers, shade cloth manufacturers, and moderate amounts of staple domestics for the early Fall trade. How firm these orders are remains to be tested, but for the first few days of the month there were very few goods offered.

### Lower Prices Foreseen

Two factors of potential importance confront cotton manufacturers. The court cases affecting the right to assess cotton processor taxes will not come up until October. It has been announced unofficially that the Government will continue its loan policy to cotton farmers. For a time, some manufacturers were considering a refusal to pay any more processor taxes, but it was intimated that such a policy would be the means of buyers securing rebates on all goods purchased in the interval.

The speculative cotton markets, however, weakened while all this was going on and fell 130 points from the top, thus laying a foundation for lower cloth prices when trading is resumed. To meet this mixed situation, a proposition is under consideration to close the mills for two weeks or a month

during the Summer and thus avoid an accumulation of goods on which rebates may have to be given if a general price break occur.

### Fall Outlook Improved

Troubles were endless in the cotton garment industries and the codes were abandoned before any suggestion came from Washington. The other textile code work is being taken up by trade associations and co-operative efforts will continue in some degree through these channels whatever the future of the governmental recovery work will be.

Much anxiety existed as to the future course of prices. The retail trades have already begun to follow the normal course of stimulating sales by price revisions now possible without legal interference. Some of the fundamentals, such as weaker raw material, in the case of cotton goods, are changing and will gradually increase pressure for lower prices.

If it can be conceived that wages and hours and other influences that have made for high costs can be maintained unchanged, the normal price readjustment may be long delayed. There are some astute merchants who believe that by September the major anxieties will have been dissipated and trade will enter upon a fair Fall movement.

DAILY SPOT MIDDLING COTTON PRICES AT LEADING CENTERS DURING MAY, 1935  
(Cents Per Pound)

	Wed. May 1	Thurs. May 2	Fri. May 3	Sat. May 4	Mon. May 6	Tues. May 7	Wed. May 8	Thurs. May 9	Fri. May 10	Sat. May 11	Mon. May 13	Tues. May 14	Wed. May 15	Thurs. May 16
New Orleans .....	12.15	12.23	12.30	12.36	12.22	12.22	12.35	12.43	12.40	12.40	12.30	12.35	12.38	12.38
New York .....	12.15	12.15	12.25	12.30	12.15	12.15	12.25	12.40	12.40	12.35	12.25	12.30	12.35	12.35
Savannah .....	12.38	12.36	12.47	12.51	12.35	12.38	12.45	12.28	12.48	12.45	12.36	12.39	12.43	12.44
Galveston .....	12.20	12.20	12.30	12.35	12.20	12.20	12.30	12.35	12.40	12.40	12.30	12.35	12.35	12.35
Memphis .....	12.25	12.25	12.35	12.40	12.25	12.25	12.35	12.50	12.50	12.45	12.35	12.35	12.45	12.30
Norfolk .....	12.28	12.25	12.37	12.37	12.25	12.25	12.35	12.43	12.50	12.45	12.36	12.36	12.40	12.40
Augusta .....	12.87	12.86	12.97	13.00	12.85	12.87	12.96	12.90	12.90	12.90	12.80	12.83	12.88	12.90
Houston .....	12.20	12.20	12.30	12.35	12.20	12.20	12.30	12.45	12.45	12.40	12.25	12.30	12.35	12.35
Little Rock .....	12.16	12.15	12.27	12.31	12.15	12.19	12.25	12.38	12.38	12.34	12.26	12.28	12.33	12.35
Fort Worth.....	11.65	11.65	11.75	11.80	11.65	11.65	11.75	11.85	11.85	12.05	12.00	12.00	12.05	12.05
Dallas .....	11.65	11.65	11.75	11.80	11.65	11.65	11.75	11.85	11.85	12.05	12.00	12.00	12.05	12.05
		Fri. May 17	Sat. May 18	Mon. May 20	Tues. May 21	Wed. May 22	Thurs. May 23	Fri. May 24	Sat. May 25	Mon. May 27	Tues. May 28	Wed. May 29	Thurs. May 30	Fri. May 31
New Orleans .....		12.57	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.40	12.40	12.45	12.40	12.30	12.00 *	.....	11.40
New York .....		12.50	12.45	12.40	12.40	12.45	12.35	12.35	12.40	12.30	12.20	11.90	.....	11.34
Savannah .....		12.62	12.54	12.52	12.54	12.56	12.44	12.46	12.48	12.47	12.36	12.08	.....	12.46
Galveston .....		12.50	12.40	12.40	12.40	12.40	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.15	11.85	.....	11.35
Memphis .....		12.45	12.40	12.35	12.35	12.40	12.35	12.35	12.40	12.35	12.25	11.95	.....	11.35
Norfolk .....		12.60	12.55	12.50	12.50	12.55	12.45	12.45	12.45	12.45	12.35	12.05	.....	12.50
Augusta .....		13.00	12.90	12.87	12.89	12.90	12.79	12.81	12.84	12.81	12.70	12.42	.....	11.81
Houston .....		12.50	12.40	12.40	12.40	12.40	12.30	12.30	12.35	12.35	12.25	12.00	.....	11.50
Little Rock .....		12.42	12.34	12.31	12.34	12.34	12.24	12.26	12.28	12.26	12.15	11.87	.....	11.25
Fort Worth.....		12.25	12.15	12.15	12.15	12.15	12.05	12.10	12.10	12.10	11.95	11.70	.....	11.10
Dallas .....		12.25	12.15	12.15	12.15	12.15	12.05	12.10	12.10	12.14	11.95	11.70	.....	11.10

\* Holiday

# BUSINESS CONDITIONS, BY DISTRICT

**Akron** Retail sales and collections have shown a slight improvement during the past month, while wholesale sales and collections remained approximately the same. Industry as a whole was fairly active, certain departments of the local rubber factories have not been working full time, but this has not seriously affected business. With warmer weather, conditions, as a whole, should show further improvement.

**Baltimore** The steady influence of labor settlement in the automobile industry, which branch has provided the backbone of the Spring business recovery this year, and advancing commodity prices have lifted business sentiment somewhat. Further stabilization of prices, now attempted, is calculated to nullify speculative buying such as that which stimulated operations at this time last year.

Although hampered by adverse weather conditions, wholesale trade continued above the levels of last year. Work relief expenditures are counted upon to help business through the usually dull Summer months, and merchants are looking toward Summer with brighter hopes than a few weeks ago.

Retail distribution has held up well, despite a backward Spring. Vacation requisites, and school graduation clothing, and gifts are beginning to move more freely, but warmer weather undoubtedly would help sales of Summer wear. Building activities continued to increase during the month.

**Buffalo** There was a slight increase in retail trade during the month, but no change in wholesale trade. An increase in sales was noted in drug sundries, toilet preparations and household furnishings, with retail sales in general showing a 2 point gain over a year ago.

Factory employment remained

the same as the preceding month, but total hours of employment and pay rolls both showed a gain over a year ago. Collections, both retail and wholesale, continued good.

**Cincinnati** General trade during April was varied, with no pronounced trend in any direction. On a basis comparable with activities of a year ago, major industries producing such articles as automobiles, radios, and electric refrigerators, showed gratifying gains, in contrast to a slight recession in the distribution of wearing apparel and lines allied with the textile trades.

Cold and rainy weather retarded the sale of lightweight wearing apparel and also hampered outdoor work, to some extent. Primary dry goods markets remained firm, with an advancing tendency for quotations covering denim and ticking, which doubtless will be followed by an increase in the selling price of overalls and work shirts.

Resumption of automotive production following labor disturbances, was reflected in a pick-up in steel production schedules and machine tool output. Inquiries have become more frequent and actual orders are being closed in a larger volume.

**Columbus** But little change is noted in general business conditions for the month in this area. Retail sales declined about four per cent, compared to the previous month. This is accounted for somewhat by weather conditions, as considerable gain was noted upon clearing weather, especially in seasonable merchandise.

There has been a slight gain in building operations, which have been subnormal for some time. There has been a slight decrease in postal receipts and bank clearings have declined slightly.

Taking retail and wholesale business combined, volume is about

stationary, only a slight gain having been made during the latter part of the month. Rural districts report prospects more favorable, owing to weather conditions, and seasonable crops are said to be in good condition.

**Dayton** There has been little change in the situation locally since last month. Manufacturing continues to hold up moderately well and there has been a slight increase in retail trade. Automobile sales are holding up well but building operations continue dormant.

Statistics compiled by the Secretary of the local Retail Merchants Association show an increase of 5.68 per cent in retail trade from January to April 1, 1935, over a like period for 1934. It also showed an increase of 18.39 per cent for April over April, 1934, and 7.16 per cent for April over March.

**Detroit** Uneasiness over the General Motors strike felt in business during the early part of May, appears to have been cleared away by the settlement. With the return of the men to work, particularly those of the Toledo district, automobile production moved upward toward the close of the month, recovering part of the previous week's losses. Most of the other manufacturing lines stayed about even with their former schedules.

With better weather, retail sales gained about 3 per cent over last year's. Sales of stores in the outlying sections have been encouraging. Gains in May as high as 15 per cent were reported. Hardware, paints, furniture, radios, and groceries appear to be the month's best sellers.

As a whole, a better feeling is evident among wholesalers, and increases over last year run about 12 per cent. The unsettled condition of the cotton market has held the textile trade back and this, in turn, has hurt the general average.

# OFFICES OF DUN & BRADSTREET, Inc.

A heavy trade is reported in the hardware, builders' supplies, furniture, radio, and grocery lines.

**Erie** With abnormal weather conditions prevailing during most of the month, there was almost no increase in retail volume, which held about at the level of a year ago. Wholesale trade was spotty, with gains registered in the hardware and furniture lines. There has been no appreciable change in manufacturing; consumers' items being in demand and heavy industries lagging.

**Grand Rapids** Volume of retail sales showed a slight drop during May, but held nearly 10 per cent ahead of the same period in 1934. Merchants have built up their stocks with the expectation of a good Summer trade.

Figures just released by the Welfare Department show approximately 2,000 have been taken from the relief rolls since the first of the year, due to improved employment conditions in this country. During April 150 families representing 613 individuals went back to work and were removed from the list.

In the manufacturing field, producers of refrigerator and automotive parts report the most active operation, conditions in those lines being about on a par with the same period of 1934.

**Hartford** Factory production for May showed a slight decline in both machine and hardware lines, and there was a corresponding decline in man-hours. Dry goods wholesalers report sales about even with last year's, but there has been a falling-off of collections. Hardware wholesalers have experienced steady sales, but collections at present are poorer than at any time during the past year.

Retail sales have failed to show any noticeable pick-up during the month, because of unfavorable

weather conditions. The sale of sporting goods has not been so heavy as expected. Refrigerator sales have been encouraging thus far.

**Indianapolis** Retail sales have shown a declining tendency during May, due largely to the continued inclement weather. Department store sales and men's and women's ready-to-wear lines failed to register any gains over the same period of 1934. Prices held rather firm.

Wholesale dry goods lines held about even with the volume of a year ago, while wholesale distribution of hardware and kindred lines showed a 4 per cent gain over the same period of 1934. Factory operations continued active.

**Little Rock** General rains occurring part of the month greatly hampered retail sales. Department and clothing stores that endeavored to stimulate volume through sales reported a satisfactory movement of merchandise. The late season and abnormally cool weather have brought about a disappointing Spring volume.

Wholesalers of dry goods and clothing, reported volume 10 to 20 per cent below that for the comparable period of last year. Feeling in the lumber business continues better, with a fairly steady demand. Planting and other farm operations are behind, causing a decline in trade in many rural sections.

**Los Angeles** Retail trade for May was slightly below March and April, and May of last year. Due to the deterrent effect of unseasonable weather upon the April Easter trade, the seasonal decline in May was less noticeable than usual. Weather conditions were not conducive to the free movement of seasonal goods, and the principal demand was for the more staple commodities, including

furniture, floor coverings, luggage, and the foodstuffs. Department store trade was featured by special selling events.

Wholesale business showed little change, being held back by the somewhat sluggish retail demand. Electrical supplies, hardware, furniture, and paints continued to move well above last year's levels. With low stocks of the more seasonal goods on the shelves of retail stores, it is expected that improvement in weather should result in a strong spurt in wholesale demand.

Furniture, radio, printing and publishing, paper, and chemical plants continued during the month to be active. The motion picture production held up well. Oil refining and tire manufacturing were slightly lower, but crude oil production gained. New drilling activity continued.

Building held very close to the activity of April and was well above this period of last year. Employment on the whole was steady. Crops are in the best condition in several years and the excellent state of the soils assures favorable growing conditions through the Summer. Prices of soil products have held firm.

**Louisville** The general trend in business locally and in the surrounding territory during the past month was satisfactory, and about 10 per cent better than the corresponding period of last year. Wholesalers and retailers of hardware and other allied lines report volume about 10 per cent greater than in 1934.

Manufacturers of steel products reported volume slightly ahead of last year's, with outlook satisfactory for some time in the future. Collections with wholesalers and retailers continue good, and in most instances better than the corresponding period last year.

**Memphis** Retail trade moved along quietly during May, with most of the activity in seasonal items, but buyers were inclined to take only actual needs. Intensive merchandise campaigns brought only moderate results, as the agricultural situation is still hampered by uncertainty.

Practically no cotton is being sold, except out of the Government's pool holdings, as prices are not high enough to dislodge offerings from the loan stocks. No definite announcement has been made as to loans for another season.

The crop start in this territory has been delayed by too much moisture and subnormal temperatures. Indications are for increased attention to food and feed crops.

**Newark** Distribution at retail indicated a slight improvement during May. Textiles were the most active among distinctive lines, with women's dresses and suits in fair demand. Millinery and silk hosiery sold well, with prices fairly steady. Dealers in footwear and shoes reported a good demand, with some tendency toward higher prices in leather goods. Automobile sales showed a slight increase in number, chiefly in the lower and intermediate price range. Sales in automobile parts and accessories are in good volume.

Very little change or improvement was apparent in industry. A cross section indicated wide variations in orders and trade demand. Manufacturers are holding to the general policy of not accumulating inventories above immediate trade requirements. Large cash balances are maintained by banks, but bankers report only moderate demand from customers, as volume of commercial paper is below normal.

**New Haven** On the whole, manufacturing and production have held fairly steady, but practically all retail merchants are complaining of poor business and some are of the opinion that sales volume at present is the lowest since the depression started.

Employment has fallen off slightly, and recently one of the

oldest manufacturers of plumbing supplies in the city of New Haven discontinued business, and approximately one hundred persons were put out of work. In the Waterbury district, there are over 900 men and women employed on F.E.R.A. projects.

**Omaha** Retail sales for the month were comfortably ahead of last year's, although items such as shoes, wearing apparel, and accessories, were affected adversely by the weather and these departments are below last year's figures. At this time last year, warm weather prevailed, and had for some time, whereas so far in the present season it has been cold and rainy.

It will be remembered that the effect of last Summer's drought was beginning to be felt and sales at this time were showing a definite tendency to slow up, and the improvement, which averages close to 15 per cent, for the month just past, reflects this changed condition.

Paint sales are below last year's largely because of the unfavorable weather and the fact that C.W.A. purchases constituted the bulk of last year's volume. Business, however, has been more profitable this year, as C.W.A. sales were on a very close margin.

**Pittsburgh** Trade was affected adversely by unfavorable weather conditions, and was materially lower in volume than in May, 1934, when warm dry weather prevailed. Sales of women's wearing apparel at both wholesale and retail have increased slightly toward the close of the month, but averaged about 15 per cent lower than during May last year. Men's clothing lines averaged about 20 per cent below May, 1934. Retail shoe sales for the first four months of 1935 were 14 per cent higher than for the same period of last year, while sales at wholesale were about 5 per cent higher.

Industrial operations, in general, were about 13 per cent lower than a year ago, this being due to the 21 per cent lower rate prevailing in the steel industry. There

was an increase in tin plate production, with a slightly better demand noted for sheets. Production of plate glass continued at a high rate, and the month of April established a new all-time record of 16,998,914 square feet; production for the first four months of 1935 totalled 60,619,203 square feet, compared with 33,604,713 square feet during the same period of 1934. Production of electrical equipment was maintained at about 50 per cent above the 1934 level, much of this being due to demand for large equipment.

**Portland, Ore.** The protracted strike of lumber workers had an unfavorable effect on local and rural trading during May. Merchants in the country communities were inclined to place orders for actual needs only, and wholesalers of clothing and millinery reported volume as only slightly in excess of that of May, 1934.

Through the stimulus of special sales, local department stores were able to keep merchandise moving at a little above the level of the comparative month a year ago. Electrical household appliances on installment contracts showed a substantial gain and, with evidence of an early settlement of industrial strikes, general trade sentiment is decidedly on the brighter side.

Despite unfavorable conditions prevailing during most of the month, May bank clearings, with a total of \$103,208,100, showed an increase over 1934 of \$18,329,400. Wool trading subsided rather abruptly toward the close of the month, with most buyers retiring from the market. Consumer purchases of foodstuffs continued fairly active, with prices generally steady.

**Providence** Leading industries in Rhode Island in April showed increased activity, both from the preceding month and from a year ago, according to measures provided by power consumption figures. An analysis of power used by industries showed that the relatively largest increases occurred in the textile trades, as a whole, with

power takings up 11 per cent from March and about 8 per cent from April, 1934. Metal trades also revealed substantial gain.

Pay rolls amounting to \$12,598,359 were disbursed in April by Rhode Island banks to workers in all industries, according to figures compiled by the Brown Bureau of Business Research. This represented an increase of 2.2 per cent from the April, 1934, total of \$12,330,175, and stood higher than in any month of April since 1931. In April, 1932 and 1933, pay rolls totalled \$10,044,269 and \$8,731,857, respectively.

In the manufacturing industries, changes in pay rolls in April from those of a year ago ranged from a loss of 21.3 per cent in rubber goods to a gain of 21.4 per cent in non-ferrous metals. While wool and worsted mills showed aggregate pay rolls up 12.3 per cent, pay rolls in the cotton industry decreased 8.4 per cent. Substantial gains in iron and steel products, jewelry and silverware, printing and publishing and food products offset the losses so that pay rolls in all manufacturing industries averaged 1.6 per cent higher than in April, 1934.

**Rochester** Retail business continued in fair volume during May, but the weather has been too cool to attract a great volume of late Spring and Summer sales. Factory employment during April showed no change from March, 1935, but was 2 per cent ahead of a year ago.

Freight carloadings for April registered no change from March, but were 8 per cent ahead of April, 1934. Paid newspaper advertising lineage for April gained 10 per cent over March, and indicated a 6 per cent advance over April, 1934. A 4 per cent gain in average daily checks for the first two weeks of May, 1935, was registered over the corresponding period of last year.

**St. Louis** The fact that sales remained slightly under the 1934 level was due to weather conditions unfavorable to the movement of Summer wearing apparel. Crop

conditions in rural areas are described as the best in years, but impassable roads and the fact that farmers are busy planting have prevented rural retailers from feeling the force of this improvement. Wholesale orders were slightly ahead of 1934.

The settlement of labor disputes opened plants previously shut down, and factories here generally were more active during May. Carloadings increased, but failed to reach the 1934 figure. Commodity prices were steady, while a scarcity of hogs raised prices to the peak in the past two months.

**Salt Lake City** Dealers in roofing materials report business showing a 20 per cent increase over the same period last year, with 90 per cent of the volume derived from repairs and replacements of old roofs. New business was small in volume, although stimulated somewhat by F.H.A. loans.

Retail dealers in new and used automobiles reported sales ahead of those for the corresponding period last year. Wholesale orders for millinery, and men's and women's clothing were 10 per cent below those for the same period last year. Wholesale and retail grocers reported a slight increase over the same period last year.

**Scranton** Business in general did not change materially during the past month. Retail sales increased slightly, but the rise was not of sufficient importance to warrant any optimistic attitude on the part of merchants. Home-furnishings led the field in general sales. Cotton textiles were next in line, and men's, women's, and children's medium-priced shoes were third. Major household appliances did not sell as well as had been expected, and were a disappointment to many of the leading stores.

Reports from wholesalers were to the effect that orders dropped over the corresponding period of a year ago. Many of the larger wholesale companies have not been able to reach the quota set by them at the beginning of the year, or to keep within their original budget.

Production and sales of the major coal companies remained unchanged. There was no improvement in employment conditions, although the majority of the larger industries operated on a full-time basis, but with a reduced force.

**Seattle** More projects are being planned each week and while few large building improvements have been announced, architects, contractors and material dealers report numerous inquiries. Home building is gaining momentum, although far below expectations for this season of the year. Store alterations and modernization jobs are being carried out, and several industrial plant structures are under way or planned, although the improvements do not involve large sums. In the Seattle area, there has been a conspicuous increase in the amount of home building just beyond the city limits.

Little news of outstanding importance affecting shipping in this region during May. Cargo movements failed to show the heavy drop expected, as a result of the lumber mill strike. Local steamship officials continue to express enthusiasm over the increases noted this year in passenger travel.

The major industry of this section, lumber, is at a standstill, and unemployment rolls were increased substantially during the last half of May. On May 16, the industry's capacity was estimated at 80 per cent down, with some important regions and units still running. Other industries continued active. The trend of foodstuff prices gradually is upward. Demand at retail during the month was featured by wearing apparel, house-furnishings, and furniture. The strike in the lumber industry already has curtailed retail volume, and has slowed down local business in all divisions.

**Syracuse** Unseasonable weather during May held up the sale of Summer merchandise, although local merchants report total sales since January 1 ahead of the same

period of last year. A general improvement is looked for, as soon as settled Summer weather arrives.

Prices of linen goods are firm, with increases noted on some merchandise, and retailers are purchasing Fall stock, with a view of forestalling further increases. Cotton and woolen goods have not shown any increase in price; in fact, some decreases have been recorded for cotton goods.

Local manufacturing plants are operating rather unsteadily, with gains reported one week being offset by losses later. There has been some reduction of numbers on welfare rolls, although the total still is larger than one year ago, and the problem of unemployment is still holding up a complete return to better business conditions.

**Tacoma** Wholesale and retail trade in the Northwest, and particularly locally, is suffering as the result of the strike in the lumber industry, it being estimated that 30,000 men now are idle. All of the plants here are closed, in addition to two veneer box plants at Puyallup, Wash.

The inability of these two plants to operate is likely to be very costly to the vegetable and fruit growers of the valley, as the several large shipping organizations in Puyallup and Sumner will be unable to obtain the necessary crates and boxes for their carload shipments. One concern already has lost the sale of a car of rhubarb, due to the strike.

**Toledo** Retail distribution generally was disappointing during May, because of the cool weather and frequent rains. Wholesale volume held steady, with orders frequent from the small retailers in the outlying districts, particularly for shoes, men's and women's clothing, and seasonal hardware.

Settlement of strike toward close of month permitted automobile plants to resume previous schedules. Foundries operated on a fairly satisfactory basis, and there was more activity reported for machine shops. Orders for safety glass declined somewhat,

due to the advanced season of the automobile industry, but production held above that for May, 1934.

Both production and sales of children's vehicles increased during May. Sales of container glassware continued to exceed total of year ago. Although volume was small, building operations were on a more extended scale than last year at this time, although the work consisted largely of repairs and small jobs.

**Wichita** Recent rains have stimulated wheat conditions in the eastern sections, from Kingman east, but the western part probably will not seed back, according to recent reports. Estimated wheat crop for the State this year is less than 70,000,000 bushels, as compared to about 154,000,000 bushels for a ten-year average.

In the wholesale and retail trades, sales in most lines showed substantial increases over same period a year ago. Collections continue fair, with some improvements noted.

**Winston-Salem** Retail sales in the wearing apparel and notions divisions showed an increase of some 5 to 10 per cent over May, 1934. This is attributed largely to the warmer weather. Grocery volume increased. Wholesalers of dry goods reported orders about 4 per cent over last year's.

Furniture manufacturers noted a small improvement in sales, about 8 per cent over a year ago. More frequent orders for larger amounts were received. Collections in this field are reported as excellent.

Sales in the hosiery manufacturing lines were spotty. Some manufacturers of the popular-priced grades reported sales over 1934 by 7 to 10 per cent, while others complained of lack of profits on merchandise sold. Cotton yarn manufacturers advised that cost of production, with lack of sufficient orders, preclude any profits at this time. Sales were about 15 per cent under the total for May, 1934.



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